

Hafa Adai!

33 youth take part in Marianas cultural immersion retreat. **PAGE 5**

New *We Drank Our Tears* film series nominated for GIFF award. **PAGE 7**

\$1

# Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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## 2 MORE TEST POSITIVE 2 positive cases are hospitalized

2 MORE TEST POSITIVE



By JOSHUA SANTOS  
joshua\_santos@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Two patients who were confirmed positive for COVID-19 last week have been hospitalized over the weekend, according to the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. yesterday.

A CHCC statement said that both patients are receiving treatment and are being actively monitored. The statement gave no further information on both cases, citing patient confidentiality.

Based on official reports, these two new hospitalizations mean the CNMI has already recorded a total of five cases of hospitalizations due

See HOSPITALIZED on Page 4

### Booster shots vs COVID-19 start Sept.

WASHINGTON (AP)—U.S. health officials have announced plans to dispense COVID-19 booster shots to

all Americans to shore up their protection amid the surging delta variant and signs that the vaccines' effectiveness is slipping.

The plan, as outlined by the chief of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

See BOOSTER on Page 4

### USDA-CERTIFIED

Joe Borja of the Tinian Mayor's Office explains the chiller capacity of the Tinian Kualidat Meat Processing Center to Northern Marianas College president Galvin Deleon Guerrero and NMC Cooperative Research, Extension, and Education Services interim dean Patty Coleman. The U.S. Department of Agriculture recently certified the facility. NMC-CREES, the Commonwealth Economic Development Authority, and the Tinian Leadership collaborated with the Tinian Mayor's Office to obtain USDA certification for the facility.

NMC

## Child tax checks possibly out in next few days

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE  
ferdie\_deltorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Department of Finance's Revenue and Taxation team is ready to distribute starting possibly at the end of this month the increased child tax credit checks for about over 10,000 families in the Mari-

See TAX on Page 4

### AT A GLANCE

As of 6:41pm, Aug. 23, 2021

#### VACCINATIONS IN THE CNMI

Eligible Population Fully Vaccinated: **76.5%**

Days since last community transmission **153**

Pfizer/BioNTech	
Initiated:	29,197
Fully Vaccinated:	27,523
Moderna	
Initiated:	4,628
Fully Vaccinated:	4,188
Janssen	
Fully vaccinated:	708

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	9298	0	9298
Recovered	8,578	0	8,578
Active	576	0	576
Deaths	144	0	144

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	224	2	226
Traced via Travel Screening	187	2	189
Traced via Community Screening	37	0	37
Deaths	2	0	2

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

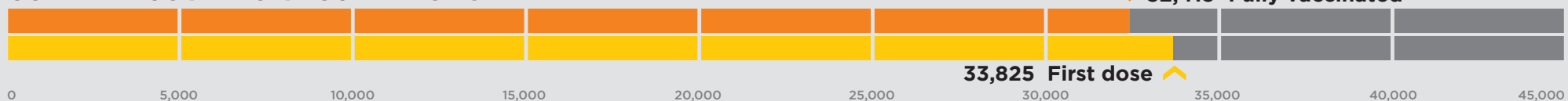
### COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

#### LEGEND:

- Red: Least safe
- Orange
- Yellow
- Blue
- Green: Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

### CURRENT COVID-19 VACCINATIONS



### INSIDE



#### BUSINESS

San Francisco's new rule: Proof of vaccine or no entering restaurants, bars, or gyms.

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#### NATION

At least 22 people were killed after heavy rain sent floodwaters surging through Tennessee.

PAGE 12



#### OVERDRIVE

It's been a while since there's been a truly new Nissan Frontier. Now comes a new Frontier for 2022.

PAGE 14



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# Local

## Igisomar seeks Atalig help to create DPL Operations Fund account

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Public Lands Secretary Sixto K. Igisomar has sought the assistance of Finance Secretary David DLG Atalig to bring DPL into compliance with a public law that requires the creation of a DPL Operations Fund account.

In his letter to Atalig, Igiso-

mar related that DPL's auditor has been citing DPL year after year for not having an operations account as required under Public Law 15-02. This has prompted Igisomar to ask Atalig to help him make DPL come into compliance with the law to avoid this finding in future audits.

In its latest report last December, Deloitte and Touche,

an independent auditor hired by the Office of the Public Auditor to look into DPL's finances for the fiscal year that ended on Sept. 30, 2019, found that DPL is noncompliant with P.L. 15-02.

Deloitte said that, without that DPL Operations

Fund, DPL is unable to produce reliable and relevant financial information.

The DPL Operations Fund—as required by P.L. 15-02—shall be maintained by Finance and DPL is required to deposit all revenues it receives in such Fund



Igisomar

and all of DPL's operational expenses shall be paid from that Fund.

Igisomar said that in reviewing correspondences on this

matter between the previous Finance secretary and his (Igisomar's) predecessors, it appears they were at the tail end

See **IGISOMAR** on Page 4

## 2 PSS students to be part of NMTI work study program

By **JOSHUA SANTOS**  
joshua\_santos@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Two CNMI Public School System students who are participating in a pilot program between the Northern Marianas Technical Institute and PSS will soon also be part of a work study program within NMTI, according to NMTI interim chief executive officer Jodina Attao.

The goal of the work study program, Attao said, is for the students to build upon what they are currently learning in their construction classes and to also develop an interest in becoming construction

managers through exposure to administrative work and learning how NMTI as a whole operates.

Attao said the program will run for three months, and the two students will have mentors. "We want [the two students] to have mentors such as the instructors, and we want to give them [an overall] perspective of how [NMTI] operates. ... We want to expose them to all the different avenues that NMTI has to offer, so that way they're not just focused on the trade, but they can eventually become managers at the end of their run," said Attao.

The two students participated in PSS' Construction Boot Camp over the summer, which was part of PSS' Career and Technical and Education Program. Over the summer, the students experienced hands-on and instructional lessons in construction with the help of public and private partners.

It was previously reported that eight students were going to participate in the NMTI-PSS pilot program during the 2021-2022 school year, but Attao said Monday that the number of pilot program participants went down to just two. *Saipan Tribune* was unable to immediately learn as to why not all eight took part in the pilot program.

## Water service interruptions on Saipan

There will be a scheduled water service interruption tomorrow, Aug. 25, 2021, from 8am to 4pm, for Commonwealth Utilities Corp. customers in the following areas: San Vicente, Laolao, Upper Dandan Homestead, Obyan and Naftan.

CUC's contractor, GPPC, Inc., will be connecting and activating the new pressure sustaining valve assembly at the Dandan water tank. This project is part of the San Vicente water tank replacement project to provide a more reliable water system to the community. Water service to the affected areas will resume soon after.

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates. (PR)

## No JGO hearing date yet for Torres, Palacios

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
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REPORTER

The House of Representatives Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committee has yet to decide on a hearing date for Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, as it continues its probe into the governor's travels and expenditures.

JGO chair Rep. Celina R. Babauta (D-Saipan) said yesterday they have yet to issue subpoenas for Torres and Palacios to testify as there is no hearing schedule yet for them.

She did confirm that subpoenas to testify have been issued to Po-

lice Sgt. Adrian Mendiola of the Boating Safety Section of the Department of Public Safety and Boating Safety officers Emery Kaipat and Kevin Aldan.

She said the hearing will resume today, Tuesday, at 10:30am, at the

House chamber.

There will also be hearings on Wednesday and Friday.

Torres recently stated that he will wait to be served first with the subpoena before he can discuss what his next steps would be.

Last Aug. 12, the JGO approved subpoenas that will require Torres, Palacios, Department of Public Safety Commissioner Robert A. Guerrero, and several others, to testify.



Babauta

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# Spending plan OK for \$160M ARPA funds assures jobs at PSS

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Jobs of Public School System's teachers and staff in the CNMI are now protected after

the U.S. Department of Education announced the approval last Wednesday of PSS' spending plan for the \$160,074,578 that is included in the American Rescue Plan Act.

In his e-kilili newsletter over the weekend, Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (MP-Ind) said the \$160-million will continue to protect the jobs of PSS teachers and

## » No local match required for emergency protective measure grants

staff in light of reduced local appropriations for education.

Education Commissioner Dr. Alfred Ada said the plan focuses on helping schools address the lost instruction time through high-dosage tutorials, socio-emotional counseling programs for students and staff, athletics and other programs that directly benefit student learning.

PSS will also be expanding career education programs and Chamorro and Refaluwasch

language classes.

Meanwhile, Sablan said President Joe Biden announced Tuesday that no local match will be required for emergency protective measure grants from the Federal Emergency Management Agency in response to COVID-19.

Sablan said this is a continuation of the 100% federal funding Biden decided on earlier this year, which expires on Sept. 30, 2021. He said the extension runs through Dec. 31, 2021.

Emergency protective measures include temporary medical facilities, specialized medical treatment, emergency medical transport and sheltering, food, water, medicine, and other consumable supplies such as personal protective equipment and hazard material suits.

Sablan said Biden's extension order will allow the Marianas and other jurisdictions to receive 100% federal reimbursement retroactively for costs associated with the safe opening and operation of public facilities dating back to Jan. 20, 2020.

## USDOE grants interest rate benefit to more than 47,000 US service members

### » Automated process benefits 880% more current and former active-duty service members since 2019

The U.S. Department of Education has announced that the office of Federal Student Aid has retroactively waived interest on loans held by more than 47,000 current and former active-duty service members. This action was made possible by a data-matching agreement with the U.S. Department of Defense that substantially improves access to a student loan interest-waiver benefit for many service members with federal student loans.

Under the Higher Education Act, service members deployed to areas that qualify them for imminent danger or hostile fire pay have no interest accrual on certain federal student loans that were first disbursed on or after Oct. 1, 2008.

In the past, only a small proportion of eligible service members successfully accessed this benefit. For instance, the Department waived interest for only approximately 4,800 ser-

vice members in 2019 when it did not have the data-match in place. Now the department is able to identify federal student loan borrowers who serve on active duty by matching records to DOD's personnel records. As a result, the department can automatically provide the student loan interest benefit to eligible service members.

"Brave men and women in uniform serving our country can now focus on doing their jobs and coming home safely, not filling out more paperwork to access their hard-earned benefits," said FSA chief operating officer Richard Cordray. "Federal Student Aid is grateful for our strong partnership with the Department of Defense, and we will seek to reduce red tape for service members wherever possible."

"The Department of Defense appreciates the efforts and commitment of the Department of Education in en-

suring eligible service members received this benefit," said Virginia Penrod, assistant secretary of Defense for Manpower & Reserve Affairs at the Department of Defense.

Service members are not required to take any action to receive the interest rate benefit. Prior to this new automation, service members had to make individual requests for the benefit and provide additional information confirming their eligibility.

Recently, the department announced its intent to form a negotiated rulemaking committee to address issues affecting federal student loan borrowers. The announcement invited nominations from constituent groups, including U.S. military service members, veterans, and the groups that represent their interests. Nominations are open through Aug. 31, 2021. This action aligns with President Joe Biden's belief that we have a sacred obligation to care for our nation's veterans and their families, both while they are deployed and after they return home. (PR)

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### Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Department of Community and Cultural Affairs Office of the Secretary

Caller Box 10007, Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950  
Tel: (670) 664-2587 Fax: (670) 664-2571

## ANNOUNCEMENT

The Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Program has expanded the definition of Front Liners/Essential Workers. The expanded definition now include:

1. Child protective service workers: those who work in the child care welfare system and other critical social services;
2. Workers in the hotel industry;
3. Field workers from utility, water, and waste water companies;
4. Legally operating transportation services;
5. Public works employees, including parts and recreation and private or other autonomous agencies who conduct field work and inspections;
6. Communications and information technology workers;
7. Hazardous materials workers
8. Financial services and lending institutions;
9. Food delivery services;
10. Employees working at the airport and seaport;
11. Restaurant workers and those who work in the food industry.

Front liners/essential workers who may not necessarily meet income guidelines for the family may still qualify. For more information regarding eligibility requirements, please call **CCDF Eligibility Workers, Genevieve Guerrero, at 664-2576 or email at [dcca.jguerrero@gmail.com](mailto:dcca.jguerrero@gmail.com) or Joella Rosario, at 664-2575 or email at [ccd.jrosario@gmail.com](mailto:ccd.jrosario@gmail.com)**. You may also want to visit the [cnmiclp.gov.mp](https://cnmiclp.gov.mp) to download the CCDF Waitlist Application Packet.

/S/  
Maribel D. Loste  
CCDF Director

/S/  
Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero  
DCCA Secretary



## PUBLIC NOTICE for Hospital Dump Site

### Public Information Meeting and Extension of the Public Comment Period

**WHO:** For the local community and public. Presented by the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers (USACE)

**WHAT:** A public meeting to provide an overview of the results of the investigation for the Project named 'Hospital Dump' a Formerly Used Defense (FUDS) site. Based on the results of the investigations, the Government has reviewed the data with Federal, State and local Agencies, and selected the proposed 'No Action' decision.

The proposed 'No Action' decision is based on the conclusions, that the metals found in site soils, (Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA)-8 metals) do not pose unacceptable risks to human health or the environment. Additionally, Total Petroleum Hydrocarbon (TPH) concentrations in soil above applicable screening levels were successfully removed from the Hospital Dump FUDS site. If after consideration of public comments, this proposed 'No Action' decision is ultimately selected, no further additional investigation, remediation or removal will be performed and USACE will pursue project closeout.

**WHEN:** Wednesday, September 1, 2021 at 5 p.m.

**WHERE:** 22nd Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature, Honorable Jesus P. Mafnas Memorial Building, P.O. Box 500586, Saipan, MP 96950

**WHY:** To present to the public the Proposed Plan to facilitate public involvement in the decision-making process for the Hospital Dump Site (FUDS Project No. H09CN012001), located at Talofofo, Saipan.

**HOW:** Attend the meeting. To ensure the community's concerns are addressed, the public comment period has been extended from July 20, 2021 to September 30, 2021. In addition, this meeting is being held for the community's attendance. The Proposed Plan and Remedial Investigation Report are available for public review in the Administrative Record file at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library Insatto Street, Susupe, Saipan. During this time, the public is encouraged to submit any written comments regarding the project to:

#### Project Point of Contact:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers-Honolulu District  
Programs and Project Management Division, Environmental Branch  
ATTN: Lori Wong (PM-HDS)  
Building 230 / CEPOH-PP-E  
Fort Shafter, HI 96858-5440  
Fax 808-835-4129  
E-mail: [FUDS-POH@usace.army.mil](mailto:FUDS-POH@usace.army.mil)



# Samson Tan is first-ever Tinian Top Chef winner

By JOSHUA SANTOS  
joshua\_santos@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Samson Tan won big two weekends ago, after being named the Tinian Top Chef during a cooking competition held at the first-ever Beef, Beer, and Bands Festival on Tinian that ran from Aug. 13 to 15.

Following a format similar to the popular cooking competition Iron Chef, three chefs from Saipan—Tan, Laxmi Shrestha from Everest Kitchen, and Sonnie Sablan from Ina's

From left, Tinian Municipal Council chair Joseph Santos, Samson Tan, and Tinian Mayor Edwin Aldan after Tan won a cooking competition that was part of the festivities of Tinian's first-ever Beef, Beer, and Bands Festival which ran from Aug. 13 to 15.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Kitchen—were invited to Tinian and in 90 minutes had to make an appetizer/chaser, soup, and main entree that utilized one required, key ingredient: Tinian beef.



In an interview with Tan on Monday, he described his competition meal as a “French-island style fusion.” For his appetizer, Tan prepared beef tartare—a dish similar to and

involving techniques similar to beef *kelaguen*—and soft-boiled egg. For soup he prepared a consommé, or very rich beef broth, and for his main entrée, Tan prepared beef bourguignon, a French red wine beef stew, which was paired with roasted beef bone marrow.

The meal, which was paired with a glass of red wine for each of the competition's three judges, won Tan a trophy, a \$1,000 cash prize, and an automatic invite to next year's Tinian Top Chef, which will be held during next year's BBB Festival in July 2022.

Tan said he was more than grateful for the opportunity to compete

and highlight Tinian's beef through his cooking. “It's a great, exciting, and fun experience to be able to visit Tinian again to share my knowledge, experience and expertise. ...I feel humble and grateful, [and] being a champion [was] just a plus for me,” said Tan.

Tan has had 30 years of food and beverage and large-scale hotel culinary experience in the CNMI, and has won cooking competitions in the past, winning several competitions that were held during past Tastes of the Marianas. He is also a member of the American Culinary Federation and Micronesian Chefs Association.

## Cap reached for remaining H-2B visas

As of Aug. 13, 2021, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services has received enough petitions for returning workers to reach the additional 22,000 H-2B visas made available under the FY 2021 H-2B supplemental visa temporary final rule. We will reject and return any cap-subject petitions for H-2B returning workers received after Aug. 13, together with any accompanying fees.

As previously announced, we began accepting additional H-2B petitions for returning workers on July 23 for the few remaining visas initially allocated as part of the Biden-Harris

administration's broader efforts to expand legal pathways for protection and opportunity for workers from the Northern Triangle countries (El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras). USCIS received requests for a significant number of Northern Triangle workers—nearly enough to reach the 6,000 allocation—and the administration remains committed to expanding these legal pathways.

We will continue to accept H-2B petitions for workers that are exempt from the congressionally mandated cap. This includes petitions for:

■ Current H-2B workers in the United States who extend their stay, change employers, or change the terms and conditions of their employment;

■ Fish roe processors, fish roe technicians, or supervisors of fish roe processing; and

■ Workers performing labor or services in the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands or Guam from Nov. 28, 2009, until Dec. 31, 2029.

We are also currently accepting cap-subject petitions for the first half of FY 2022 for employment start dates on or after Oct. 1, 2021 and before April 1, 2022. (PR)

## TAX

From Page 1

anas that are qualified, according to Finance Secretary David DLG Atalig on Friday.

In response to inquiry about the increased child tax credit during a radio press briefing, Atalig said his Revenue and Taxation team has been preparing for this, so they are ready to go as soon as the funds get into Finance's accounts.

“If the money comes out [this week] I would send out the checks [this week]. And so I do want to share with community to please be patient,” he said.

Meanwhile, Sen. Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero (D-Saipan) said yesterday that she is happy to know that the CNMI's Child Tax Credit Plan has been approved.

DeLeon Guerrero said she is hopeful that for these funds to be paid out at the earliest time to qualifying families and dependents to help them with their needs.

DeLeon Guerrero and Sen. Paul A. Manglona (Ind-Rota) had introduced Senate Resolution 22-09, urging Gov. Ralph DLG Torres to exercise his authority to expedite the payment of the child tax credits to benefit the people of the CNMI. The Senate adopted the resolution and transmitted it to Torres last May 27.

Atalig on Friday said it is not in his control in terms of when they are going to receive the funding for the child tax credits.

But he assured that, as soon as they receive the funds, the checks

will go out to these households that benefit from this advance child tax credit law.

Last Tuesday, Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (MP-Ind) announced that the increased child tax credit for Marianas families included by U.S. Congress in the American Rescue Plan Act in March has now been approved for distribution.

Sablan said the U.S. Treasury Department informed him that the Commonwealth's expenditure plan was received last Aug. 16 and approved the following day, Aug. 17.

The ARPA, which was passed in the U.S. House of Representatives last March 10, contains the largest child tax credit ever for families.

The credit is \$3,000 per child for children from age six through 17. For children under age 6, the credit is \$3,600. Any family with two working parents and an income below \$150,000 is eligible for the full credit. Single working parents earning up to \$112,000 are also eligible for the full credit.

Atalig said hopefully they can distribute the first batch of the checks at the end of this month and subsequently the following months to December 2021.

As to the total amount of increased child tax credit, Atalig said he does not have the exact numbers at the moment, but based on the 2019 and 2020 figures, he is anticipating about over 10,000 families that are qualified.

The official said on a normal child tax credit of \$2,000, they usually distribute \$12 million to \$14 million annually. With the increased child tax credit, he is expecting about \$20 mil-

lion annually.

Atalig said it means that they have about \$10 million available, based on figures from 2019 tax return data.

“I have maybe about \$10 million available to distribute for the period for the rest of the calendar year in monthly installments,” said Atalig, adding that the numbers can go up as they anticipate people adding dependents to their tax return.

“We have an opportunity for taxpayers to submit their additional dependents, meaning if they have a newborn child that's born between Jan. 1 and today, they can certainly have that dependent,” Atalig said.

He said they are going to have a portal where parents can log in and add dependents so that they can get the advanced child tax for that child as well.

Atalig said they don't have to wait until the next tax filing date to get them entered in and benefit from these monthly checks.

As they anticipate those numbers who will benefit can go up, the U.S. Internal Revenue Services and the U.S. Treasury will pay out exactly what the CNMI needs, he added. “And so there's no cap. You just need to prove that they are eligible dependents that we can pay these monthly benefits to families,” Atalig pointed out.

He said just like the stimuluses in the past, and every year with the child tax credits, Finance submits the listing to IRS, and IRS will submit it to U.S. Treasury.

“Once the funds are transmitted to us, we have the green light to send out the checks,” he said.

## BOOSTER

From Page 1

and other top health authorities, calls for an extra dose eight months after people get their second shot of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine. The doses could begin the week of Sept. 20.

“Our plan is to protect the American people, to stay ahead of this virus,” CDC Director Dr. Rochelle Walensky said as the agency cited a raft of studies suggesting that the vaccines are losing ground while the highly contagious variant spreads.

People who received the single-dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine will also probably need extra shots, health officials said. But they said they are waiting for more data.

Officials said that before any booster program starts up, the Food and Drug Administration and a CDC advisory panel would need to evaluate the safety and effectiveness of an extra dose.

“We have a responsibility to give the maximum amount of protection,” President Joe Biden said at the White House. He added that extra doses are also “the best way to protect ourselves from new variants that could arise.”

## HOSPITALIZED

From Page 1

to COVID-19.

Also, two more incoming travelers were confirmed positive for COVID-19, according to CHCC. The individuals were identified by travel screening and confirmed through arrival testing on Aug. 21 and 22, respectively. The cases bring the CNMI's total to 226 cases.

According to the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., the individuals have since then been quarantined and monitored, and CHCC's Communicable Disease Investigation/Inspection team has already initiated contract tracing for those who were in most immediate

contact with the individuals.

In related news, CHCC chief executive officer Esther Muña said last Friday that requiring travelers to show proof of negative test results prior to entering the CNMI would give travelers the wrong assumption that they are not infectious, and could possibly lead travelers and those in frequent contact with travelers to “let their guards down.”

“We can test here, so requiring [proof of negative tests before traveling] may give [travelers] the assumption that they are not infectious. We're seeing that with even those we test on Day 1, [they think] that they're negative so they let their guards down and then we find them positive on Day 5,” said Muña.

## IGISOMAR

From Page 2

of establishing the “DPL Operations Fund account by adding Finance as a co-holder of DPL's existing accounts at the Bank of Guam. However, Igisomar said, that process was not completed for unknown reasons.

Igisomar said DPL intends to comply with the law and he acknowledges it provides Finance the authority to maintain the account.

He recognized that DPL cannot unilaterally restructure its existing accounts to name Finance as an account co-holder with DPL as the expenditure authority.

Igisomar requested Atalig to help in completing the process of transforming DPL's existing accounts at BOG to serve as the “DPL Operations Fund” account.

If Atalig has a more efficient alternative to establishing DPL's operations fund account, Igisomar said they are open to discussing it.





The Inafa'maolek Manhoben Marianas pose for a picture at the As Matmos Cliff on Rota.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A total of 33 youth ranging in ages from 14 to 17 from Guam, Luta, Saipan, and Tinian came together on Rota as part of the *Inafa'maolek Manhoben* Marianas cultural immersion retreat that ran from July 11-24 as the culminating event of the five-week summer camp that was implemented on each island.

In celebration of our cultural traditions and in order to learn about the interconnectedness of the Marianas, the youth were immersed in the pristine natural beauty and resources on Rota, learning survival skills, cultural arts, and team building. They stayed at the Man'amko Center in Sinapalo and also

camped out at Teteto Beach. The retreat featured hands-on activities and excursions that highlighted our way of life. Guided by knowledgeable practitioners, they slaughtered and processed a cow for their meals, made coconut oil, drank Chamorro medicine, and learned and performed chants, songs, and

dances. The group paid homage at ancestral sacred sites like "Taga Stone" Quarry, Mochong and Maya latte villages, and Chugai cave. "I saw the real Marianas in front of my eyes," said Donovan Cabrera, 16, from Saipan. Youth engaged in open discussions about their life-

styles and experiences per island. They also interviewed *man'amko* of Luta about their lives "back in the day." Emerging leaders had the opportunity to share their perspectives at a public hearing hosted by the CNMI's Office of Planning and Development. Devin Cing, 17, from Tinian shared, "Visions I have for our future is for our islands to be united again."

Project director Eva Cruz reflects on the successes and challenges of the camp. "It wasn't an easy task, but I believe we lived up to our name, *inafa'maolek*. Program staff and youth had to apply the skills and values that enabled our ancestors to thrive here for thousands of years: cooperation, adaptation, appreciation, and resilience." One of the participants, Fanai Staffler of Saipan, said she wants to see more programs like the Inafa'maolek. "I think it's a great way to get teens to learn and experience more of their culture. It also gives them chances to make life-long friends."

## CHCC partners with NMC for nicotine cessation classes

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s Non-Communicable Disease Bureau, in partnership with the Northern Marianas College-Cooperative Research Extension and Education Service, is offering nicotine cessation classes at the college. The partnership will further support and expand tobacco prevention and control efforts, and reduce tobacco-related morbidities and mortalities in the CNMI.

and mouth cancer, primarily from tobacco use, are two of the Top 5 cancers in the CNMI. Data from the CHCC also reveals that younger people in their 30s and 40s are being diagnosed with cancers related to tobacco use. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention states that tobacco use is the leading cause of preventable disease, disability, and death in the U.S. Smoking causes cancer, heart disease, stroke, lung diseases, type 2 diabetes, and other chronic health conditions.

According to the 2016 CNMI Hybrid Survey, adult residents of the CNMI are at an increased risk of developing tobacco-related illnesses such as cancer, which is three to four times higher in the CNMI when compared to the United States; one in four adults chew betel nut; and 80% use tobacco with their chew.

To schedule a free oral cancer screening, call the CHCC Dental Clinic at (670) 236-8369.

The CHCC Health and Vital Statistics Office reports that 76% of deaths in the CNMI between January to June 2021 are due to NCDs and related risk factors. According to the CNMI Cancer Registry, lung

The NCDB also offers nicotine cessation services with support from certified cessation facilitators, which includes creating a personalized quit plan, understanding cravings and withdrawals, identifying tobacco habits and coping strategies, and proper use of preferred nicotine replacement therapies. (PR)



The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp and Northern Marianas College formally sign their partnership on July 6, 2021. Standing, from left, Brianna Fajardo, CHCC community outreach specialist; Patricia Coleman, NMC interim dean; Frankie Elptico, NMC vice president; Tayna Belyeu-Camacho, certified cessation facilitator. Seated, from left, Dr. Galvin Deleon Guerrero, NMC president; and Jolanie Tenorio, CHCC project assistant.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

For more information, please contact:	
CNMI Tobacco Quitline	323-QUIT (7848)
NMC Cessation: Tayna Belyeu-Camacho	237-6841
Tinian Cessation: Joyce Flores / Keith Nabors	433-9233
Rota Cessation: Orly Soria	532-9461

THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANAS

GOVERNMENT

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

GOVERNMENT

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

GOVERNMENT

CNMI DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES

CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID

ITB NO.: ITB21-ZB-093

SUBMISSION DATE: SEPTEMBER 03, 2021 TIME: 09:00 A.M. (RE-BID)

**"36 MONTHS LEASE OF ONE MULTIFUNCTION OFFICE PRINTER FOR THE COMMONWEALTH ZONING BOARD OFFICE"**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENSION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

**\*\*FOR YOUR SAFETY & OURS: ALL INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS ARE REQUIRED TO USE A FACE MASK & ARE REQUIRED TO REGISTER UPON ENTRY\*\***

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIC SECTION 70-30.3-425 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ TATIANA BABAUTA  
CHAIRWOMAN, CNMI ZONING BOARD

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON  
ACTING DIRECTOR, PS

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY

COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION (RFQ)

**RFQ21-CHCC/PH/CGC-002**

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 10th, 2021 TIME: 4:30PM (CHST)

**"PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FOR INDEFINITE DELIVERY INDEFINITE QUANTITY-CHCC POPULATION HEALTH COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING"**

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE [WWW.CHCC.GOV.MP]. ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS** TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA  
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORA P. ADA  
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY



# Island Snapshots



## CORPORATE OUTREACH

JOSHUA SANTOS

Lindsay Ahn, center, Corporate Social Responsibility manager for E-Land Group, briefly goes over the crafts & arts project the E-Land Group staff members and Center for Living Independently in the CNMI participants made together at CLI-CNMI's main location on Capital Hill last Aug. 12, 2021.



An E-Land Group staff member, middle right, helps her small group of Center for Living Independently in the CNMI participants with their art projects. E-Land and CLI-CNMI came together for an arts & crafts activity at CLI-CNMI's main location in Capital Hill last Aug. 12, 2021, making drink coasters using upcycled sea glass. Next activity for E-Land and CLI-CNMI will be a "cooking adventure."



E-Land Group staff members, middle left and farthest right, help their small group of Center for Living Independently in the CNMI participants with their art projects. E-Land and CLI-CNMI came together for an arts & crafts activity at CLI-CNMI's main location on Capital Hill last Aug. 12, 2021, making drink coasters using upcycled sea glass.



Mary Bellama shares a photo with Commonwealth Cancer Association president Bo Palacios at Naked Fish Bar and Grill last Aug. 13, 2021. Bellama won \$1,000 thanks to the COVID-19 vaccination campaign Road to 80, and decided to donate her cash prize to the CCA. CCA president Bo Palacios was at Naked Fish and Bellama handed the cash to him in person.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

## ROAD TO 80 WINNERS

Road to 80 raffle winner Edgardo Sagun, middle, and Road to 80 program manager and raffle host Brad Ruszala, right, share a photo at Naked Fish Bar and Grill last Aug. 13, 2021. After receiving his \$3,000 prize, Sagun said, "For me this was not lucky. This was God's blessing."

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

## DREAM CAR AWARD WINNER

Atkins Kroll Saipan officials present 13-year old Jeewoo Son from Saipan on Saturday, Aug. 21, her award for winning the Mobility for All Award in the Toyota Dream Car Awards. Son won the for her submission "World Rescue Assist Protect Car," or "WRAP CAR." Son received \$5,000 from Toyota Motor Corp.n and her school, Mount Carmel School, received \$10,000. From left, Liza Taylor, AK sales associate; Kim Calage, AK sales associate; Juyoung Lee, mother of Jeewoo Son; Jeewoo Son, Mobility for All Award winner; Filmah Buenaflor, Mount Carmel School vice principal; Kevin Barnes, AK sales manager; and Kevin Ada, AK sales associate.



## GOP BETS

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Some of the supporters, family members and friends join a group photo with Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Senate floor leader Vinnie Vinson Flores Sablan at a gathering at Torres' residential compound in As Teo last Aug. 14, 2021. Torres named at the event Sablan as his running mate for the 2022 gubernatorial elections.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Senate floor leader Vinnie Vinson Flores Sablan celebrate with their families as the NMI Republic Party's candidates for governor and lieutenant governor, respectively, for the 2022 gubernatorial elections during an announcement made last Aug. 14, 2021, at Torres' residential compound in As Teo.



# New *We Drank Our Tears* film series nominated for GIFF award

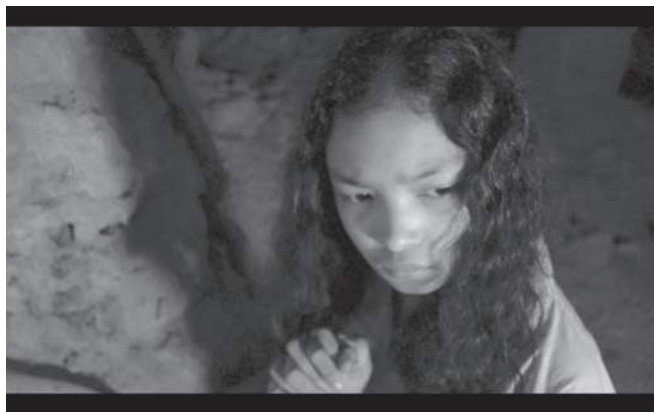


Mount Carmel School was notified this week that the Guam International Film Festival, or GIFF, has nominated the school's most recent entry in the *We Drank Our Tears* film series for "Best Made in the Marianas" award at the festival—only one of three films nominated for the award.

Telling the stories of Visitacion Camacho, Henry Indalecio, and David "Uncle Dave" Sablan, the film marks the fourth film entered in the festival and third to be nominated.

In the notification letter, GIFF co-founders Kel and Don Muña commended the school for its "outstanding work" and noted that the award serves to promote the achievements of our outstanding artists in the region. "We are thrilled to include *We Drank Our Tears--The Stories of Visitacion, Henry, and Dave* into the festival's programming lineup and in addition, feel that it is deserving of the nomination," they said.

The writer and producer of the film series, Dr. Galvin Deleon Guerrero, was very happy to hear of the nomination. "These films have empowered



A screenshot of Jessiana Tenorio as Visitacion Camacho. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

a whole new generation of storytellers to learn more about their history and tell these important stories of resiliency and hope," he said.

All films in the series were made primarily with students from the school serving as cast and crew members. As Deleon

Guerrero noted, "Just as the original book was the work of young students chronicling the stories of their elders in print, these films are the work of young students chronicling the stories of our islands in film."

All films in the series are adapted from *We Drank Our*



A screenshot of Kainoa Tenorio as Dave Sablan. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



A screenshot of Jayson Tagabuel as Henry Indalecio. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

*Tears*, a 2004 oral history of the civilian experience of World War II battles on Saipan and Tinian, published by Pacific STAR Young Writers Foundation. In 1944, some of the final battles of World War

II were waged on the Pacific islands of Saipan and Tinian. A total of 933 indigenous Chamorro and Refaluwasch civilians did not survive the battles. The book and the film series tell some of those stories.

The film stars Jessiana Tenorio as Visitacion Camacho, Jayson Tagabuel as Henry Indalecio, and Kainoa Tenorio as Dave Sablan. Their stories were directed by two students, Mikee Mendoza and Larry Cruz, and the school's director of institutional development and AlumKnight, Victoria Deleon Guerrero.

The production was made possible by the CNMI CARES Relief Fund for Organizations and supported by the National Endowment for the Arts through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act of 2020.

For more information about the films or Mount Carmel School, visit [www.mountcarmelsaipan.com](http://www.mountcarmelsaipan.com). (PR)

## FBI arrests suspect in FHB robbery

The Federal Bureau of Investigation arrested yesterday Vicente Guerrero Perez on charges related to the Aug. 13 bank robbery of the First Hawaiian Bank in Dededo.

"The FBI is committed to follow every lead to ensure criminals are held accountable," said FBI Honolulu special agent-in-charge Steven Merrill. "The arrest today continues our mission to seek

justice on behalf of our community which joined together to track him down. The FBI would like to thank the Guam Police Department, all of our law enforcement partners, and the citizens of this island. Together, we send the message loud and clear—we will work together to protect Guam's people and their money."

Perez is in custody awaiting his initial court appearance.

Anyone with information regarding this or any criminal matters are encouraged to reach the FBI Guam complaint/tip line: (671) 472-7465; the FBI Saipan complaint/tip line: (670) 322-6933 or the FBI Honolulu 24-7: (808) 566-4300. Anyone who believes they have fallen victim to an internet crime may report it to the FBI's Internet Crimes Complaint Center: ic3.gov. (PR)

### COMMUNITY BRIEFS

#### Free webinars for cnmi start-ups and side hustles

Thanks to sponsorship through the Northern Marianas College, the "CNMI Small Business Side Hustle" COVID-19 Training Series will be available to participants in the CNMI free of charge. These trainings aim to help entrepreneurs and new business owners in the CNMI better understand how to start their business endeavors while still being impacted COVID-19.

Trainings include the following:

■ **How to Start Your Side Hustle During COVID-19:** Monday, Aug. 30, 2021, 9am–11am or 5:30pm–7:30pm

■ **How to Create Your COVID-19 Side Hustle's Business Plan:** Tuesday, Aug. 31, 2021, 9am–11am or 5:30pm–7:30pm

■ **How to Make the Financial Plan for Your Side Hustle:** Wednesday, Sept. 1, 2021, 9am–11am or 5:30pm–7:30pm

■ **How to Begin Your Small Biz Marketing Plan:** Thursday, Sept. 2, 2021, 9am–11am or 5:30pm–7:30pm

■ **How to Pay Taxes on your Side Hustle:** Monday, Sept. 6, 2021, 9am–11am or 5:30pm–7:30pm

■ **How to Price Your Services to Be Profitable for Your COVID-19 Side Hustle:** Tuesday, Sept. 7, 2021, 9am–11am or 5:30pm–7:30pm

■ **How to Get Funding for my COVID-19 Side Hustle:** Wednesday, Sept. 8, 2021, 9am–11am or 5:30pm–7:30pm

■ **How to Make Your Side Hustle Your Full-Time Gig:** Thursday, Sept. 9, 2021, 9am–11am or 5:30pm–7:30pm

All trainings will be conducted via Zoom and presented by Max Impacts: Maxing Laszlo Consulting and is in partnership with the CNMI SBDC. RSVP to all trainings is required at <https://tinyurl.com/CNMISmallBiz>. For questions, call 285-7739. (PR)

#### Taste of the Marianas contests registration

Registration is on-going for three contests at 19th Annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden: Kadun Pika Cooking Contest on Aug. 27; Eskabeche Cooking Contest on Aug. 28, and Bunuelos Kamuti Eating Contest on Aug. 29. All contests will be held at 7pm. at the festival grounds at Garapan Fishing Base on Saipan, and registration is open to 10 contestants per contest. For rules and registration forms, visit The Marianas Calendar at [www.mymarianas.com/the-marianas-calendar](http://www.mymarianas.com/the-marianas-calendar) or contact Marianas Visitors Authority Community Projects specialist Ray Villagomez at 664-3210 or [rvillagomez@mymarianas.com](mailto:rvillagomez@mymarianas.com). (PR)

#### Free federal contracting webinar

The Guam Procurement Technical Assistance Center is offering a free live webinar on Thursday, Aug. 26, called "Marketing to the Federal Government." The government buys products and services differently than the private sector. The Guam PTAC will discuss marketing strategies, essential documents, and how to get your company on "the list." This webinar will run from 10am to 11:30am and will be conducted via Zoom. Link to the live webinar and the webinar evaluation will be emailed to all registered attendees 15 minutes before the start of the webinar. Register at <http://guamptac.com/news-and-events.php>. (PR)

#### 4.8-magnitude quake in Maug region

At 1:37am on Aug. 21, 2021, a report of a 4.8-magnitude earthquake occurred 20.581°N 145.332°E of the Maug Islands region in the Northern Mariana Islands. There were no tsunami warnings or advisories issued by the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center. For more information, contact the CNMI EOC State Warning Point at 670-237-8000. (PR)



#### REPRESENTING THE CNMI

Sasha Fierce Camacho, left, and Naesha Lurialyn Pua Mangarero, right, share a photo after performing a dance to represent the CNMI during an event in Seattle, Washington hosted by the United Territories of Pacific Islanders Alliance, or UTOPIA Seattle, last Saturday, Aug. 14. Camacho moved from the CNMI to Seattle in 2016, and Mangarero moved to Seattle in 2007. Both are involved with UTOPIA Seattle. In the center is Collins Ma'alona, who is Samoan but wanted to join the two during their dance last Saturday.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



# Opinion

Hafa Adai!

## Saipan Tribune

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### EDITORIAL

## One election away from losing American democracy

America may be one election away from losing its democracy. Democracy's fate seems to hinge on a little known act, the Electoral Count Act of 1887. Now is the time for Congress to bring the Electoral Count Act into this century. There are plenty of state bills across the country making it harder to vote in the United States. The Electoral Count Act deals with the vote count on the back end and sets the rules for whether those votes will actually be counted.

The 1887 act is a federal law establishing procedures to abide by constitutional provisions for the counting of electoral votes following a presidential election.

The 2020 election was the first in America's history to not yield a peaceful transfer of power. That failure is rooted in two loopholes contained in the 1887 law—loopholes that must be closed before another presidential election occurs. First, the act enables state legislatures to ignore the popular vote and choose an alternative slate of electors in the case of an undefined failed election. It gives power to politicians, not voters, to decide when an election's results must be disqualified or reworked. The dangers of handing such wide-ranging powers to politicians should now be obvious.

The 1887 act also decrees that if one representative and one senator object, in writing, to the counting of any state's electoral votes, the bodies must adjourn to their chambers to debate the matter.

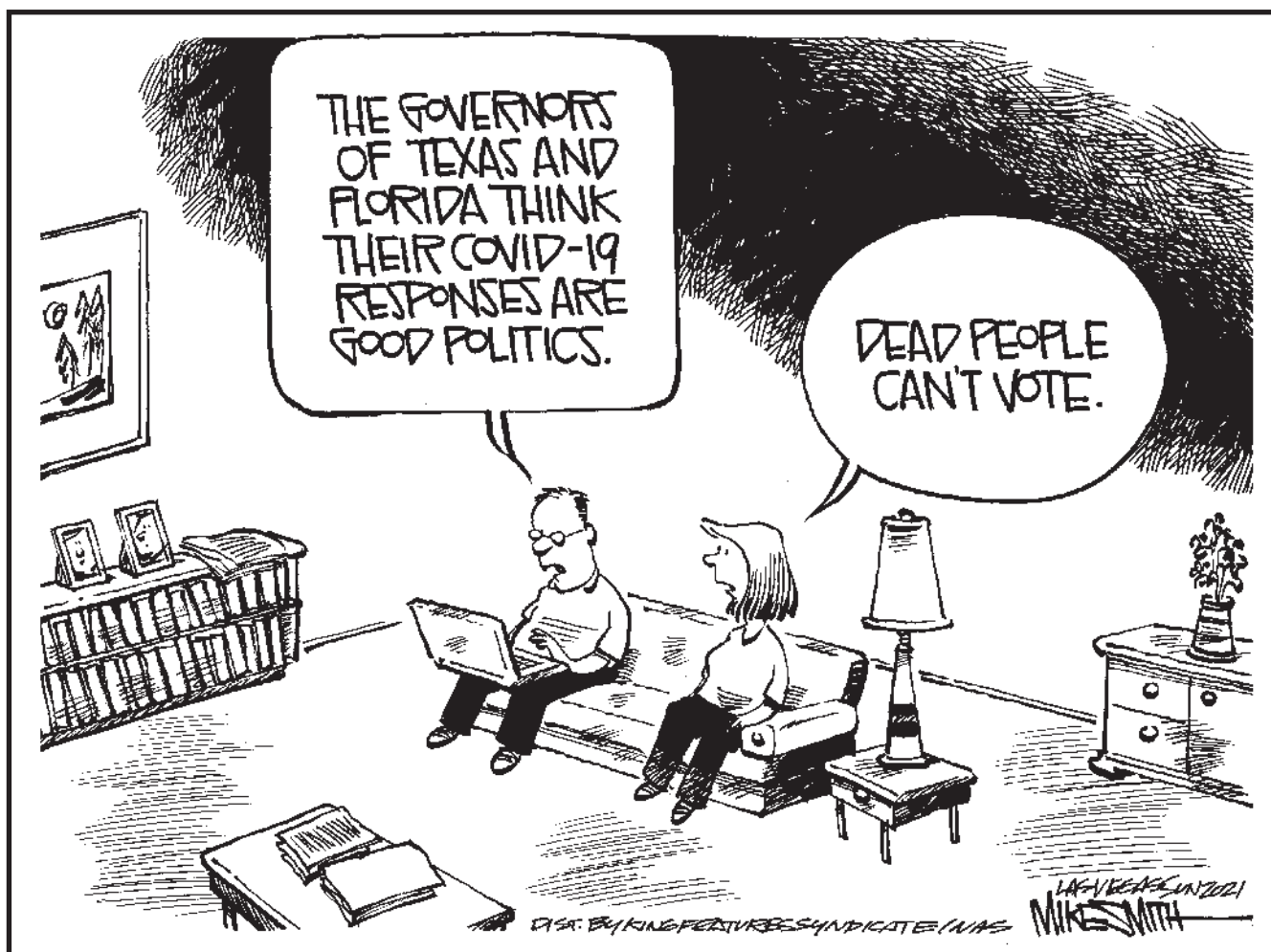
Americans saw for themselves the chaos that can ensue when as few as two politicians have the power to throw a wrench into the nation's electoral gears. In the aftermath of the 2020 election, 147 Republican officeholders were willing to decertify the Electoral College count. Included in those 147 were six Missouri Republicans: Sen. Josh Hawley and Reps. Sam Graves, Vicky Hartzler, Billy Long, Blaine Luetkemeyer and Jason Smith.

This time, it was the Republican Party invoking the 1887 law to circumvent the actual vote count to effectively nullify Joe Biden's election as president. The next time, it could be Democrats. Unless the Electoral Count Act is reformed, the blueprints are out there for any future administration and partisan supporters in Congress to sidestep the will of the people in order to retain power.

The Electoral Count Act should require at least a supermajority to decertify any state's electoral votes. Right now, it only requires a simple majority. The law should also clarify what a failed election is and make it more difficult to substitute electors.

For the act to be reformed, it would only take 10 Republicans to join Democrats in the goal of protecting American democracy. If the two parties could find unity over a \$1 trillion bill to upgrade America's infrastructure, surely they can find a way to do the same with the nation's crumbling electoral infrastructure.

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## Still smarting from our leaders' intelligence failure

Joe Biden, never one for subtlety or secrecy, has been known since his veep days as this capital city's most outspoken insider who wanted in the worst way to end America's un-won and unwinnable war in Afghanistan.

And that is just what he has done. President Biden decisively ended America's military role in Afghanistan this past week—but he did it in the worst way.

And he did it with the whole world watching, with disbelieving eyes. Biden, who recently promised we'd never see a panic scene like those people clamoring to get on the last chopper off the Saigon embassy roof, just watched on TV as we did, as panicked Afghan masses desperately ran beside a jet taking off from the one runway that was America's lone escape route out of Afghanistan.

Today Biden and his closest advisers want you to know they were shocked—shocked!—when their Afghan allies simply stole away, in 11 days in August, with all the U.S. money they could steal. And that the Afghan military, seeing that, walked away. Some got Taliban payoffs; most got Taliban safe conduct—and gifted the Taliban with the aircraft, weapons, vehicles and info-packed computers they'd gotten from us.

But wait: All year (much longer, really) Washington's policymakers and policy-massagers had been getting very specific intelligence reports from Afghanistan's war zones detailing devastating deterioration, demoralization and corrosive corruption within the never-really-combat-ready Afghan military. Afghan troops weren't getting paid or fed. Weapons were disappearing.

One report said that in January a desperate police captain whose Mazar-I-Sharif outpost was under assault by Taliban troops radioed desperately for ammo. But he got only one can of 200 rounds—enough for one minute of intense firing. That was too typical. By April, Washington's policy pooh-bahs were reading dire war zone reports of Afghan troops being bought off by the Taliban and going home. So how shocked can any official be today?

And there's one more thing you need to know: All the above intelligence arrived in Washington not in top-secret computer cables, but in news reports that were read by everyone with a news screen. Yet this week Biden and Joint Chiefs Chairman Gen. Mark Milley insisted no one told them it could turn out like this.

When I first saw those reports earlier this year, I felt like I'd seen this movie before. I not only knew the ending, I'd covered it. Way back in December, 1974—after all U.S. troops had been withdrawn from Vietnam—I went there as Newsday's Washington bureau chief to gauge the probable success or failure of Richard Nixon's plan to gradually get out of that war. Henry

By MARTIN SCHRAM

Tribune News Service

Martin Schram, an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service, is a veteran Washington journalist, author and TV documentary executive. Readers may send him email at martin.schram@gmail.com.



Kissinger, who choreographed Nixon's Vietnamization plan, famously spoke of an "elegant bugout."

FLASHBACK: In the Mekong Delta area, my interpreter and I talked with a civilian crew digging a huge government irrigation project. The workers were terrified. Viet Cong soldiers camped in the nearby jungle, sometimes came out at night, kidnapped and beat workers to get them to quit. "Sure I am afraid," one worker told me. "... But we have no choice." The government wouldn't pay them until they did several months of digging. Democracy or communism? They no longer cared who won the war. "My life will not change. I just want peace."

Back home, one day, I told the story to a young senator from Delaware when I rode the Amtrak train home with him after work.

FAST-FORWARD: Today, when it comes to Afghanistan, President Biden is not an elegant bugout kind of guy. He's Scranton Joe—a get-the-hell-out guy.

But while my long-ago pal has surely benefited from the lessons of today's intelligence and yesteryear's history, he has also missed a big one. Because, as we heard in his interview with ABC News' persistent George Stephanopoulos, Biden was asking his experts the wrong question: "The basic choice is: Am I going to send your sons and your daughters to war in Afghanistan in perpetuity?"

No, never perpetuity. This war had run its course. That's why Biden and his team were morally obligated to pursue—quietly, but with the all-out determination they are showing now—a plan to classify and approve all Afghans eligible for rapid rescue because they risked their lives to protect Americans. And months ago, they needed to develop a Worst-Case Scenario Exit Plan to create and militarily enforce a safe corridor that would get Americans and our Afghan protectors safely to the Kabul airport and on planes.

Joe Biden's America could have—and should have—provided a moral, humane end plan so the world would see that this time America's war, while un-won, was at least also un-lost.



**EDITORIAL POLICY**

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

## Afghanistan widow: ‘My God, they’re gone. No more of this’

In awkward efforts to console her, some people questioned the purpose of the long U.S. war in Afghanistan and, thereby, her husband’s death. It hurt to hear such comments, but Peggy Marchanti came to terms with the meaning of her husband’s service and his sacrifice in the weeks after his burial in Arlington National Cemetery.

And she made a kind assessment of the people who had inadvertently made unkind remarks.

“As soon as he died, there were always people who said, ‘We shouldn’t be there, these lives are being wasted,’” she recalled recently when we spoke by phone. “So that was very hurtful years ago, but I came to terms with that. I kind of dealt with it and realized it wasn’t meant to hurt me. People were just really concerned for the lives being lost.”

And of her husband, she said: “I could never say his life was wasted or squandered because he was trying to help. They did do good things there.”

Robert (Bob) J. Marchanti II was a 48-year-old major in the Maryland National Guard and a former physical education teacher in the Baltimore County schools. His death on Feb. 25, 2012, came as he was trying to mentor the Afghan National Police, part of U.S. efforts to train security forces to protect the country’s embattled government. Marchanti and another officer, Air Force Lt. Col. John D. Loftis, were victims of an insider attack—fatally shot by an Afghan police officer while inside the supposedly secure Afghan Interior Ministry in Kabul. The burning of Qurans by NATO personnel days earlier at a military base in Bagram had ignited violent protests and sparked retaliatory violence against American soldiers. “The unrest,” the Sun reported at the time, “has cast further doubt over the viability of the U.S. mission.”

The mission was 11 years old by then, a little past the halfway point in America’s longest war. Marchanti was the fourth Maryland National Guard member to be killed in Afghanistan

since 9/11 and the invasion of the country.

Twenty years on, as Peggy Marchanti watches the collapse of the Afghan government and the return of the Taliban to power after the U.S. withdrawal, some friends expect her to be outraged, but she doesn’t spend a lot of time there.

“At first I was,” she said, “but then after the withdrawal, I watched a lot of different news programs and I was like, ‘It’s time, it’s probably way past time to be gone.’ And then, when I came to terms with that, thinking [the troops] are gone, it was such a relief. My God, they’re gone. No more of this. No other wife or mother is going to have to hear ...”

Hear what she heard that day in 2012 when two soldiers came to her front door to tell her about Bob.

They had known each other since they were 18 and both worked at a Friendly’s. He graduated from what was then Towson State University and took a teaching job with the county. His favorite assignment was working with children with autism at Carney Elementary School. “He loved those kids, they loved him,” his wife said.

But the school system sent him to other county schools, some of them very challenging. After 17 years, he felt some burnout and an urge for something different. He got a job as a facilities management technician, overseeing upgrades to National Guard armories. His deployment to Afghanistan was his first there; it was due to end in September 2012.

The Marchantis had four children, and I asked Peggy about each of them. The oldest son, Aaron, 34, was a Baltimore firefighter until he moved his family to the Dominican Republic and a new job. A daughter, Leah, 28, is a nurse practitioner. Another son, Jonah, 27, is a city firefighter, and his twin brother, Ian, works for a publisher in Baltimore.

Peggy Marchanti keeps in touch with Holly Loftis, who became a war widow the same day she did. She hears from soldiers

**By DAN RODRICKS**

The Baltimore Sun

*Dan Rodricks is a columnist for The Baltimore Sun.*



who served with her husband. She spoke with a general a while back who said, with respect and apology, that he didn’t believe the U.S. mission in Afghanistan would ever succeed.

And now it’s over.

Peggy spends a lot of time babysitting her grandchildren; she recently took one of them, 12-year-old Malachi, to visit his grandfather’s grave in Arlington. She writes expressions, some of them from the Bible, on stones and leaves them on Bob’s headstone. Sometimes she leaves a photograph.

“In Afghanistan, there’s a playground that was dedicated to him,” she said. “There’s a plaque and they asked me what I wanted to put on it and it was a Bible verse, from the New Testament. And I thought they’d never do that, but they did.”

The verse is from Corinthians, “Lover never fails.” With the Taliban in Kabul, she wonders what will happen to the playground—or, at least, the plaque.

“Bob told me a story once of an Afghan general who was talking to him,” she said. “Of course, they had an interpreter. And this Afghan general was putting his hand over his heart, and Bob asked the interpreter, ‘What’s he saying?’ And the interpreter said, ‘He’s telling you you have a good heart.’ I don’t know where that Afghan general is now. But I hope he got out, I hope he’s not there anymore.”

## Mistakes the US made in Vietnam were repeated in Afghanistan. We must break the cycle

The rapid collapse of the Afghan government has lessons to teach us, if we will listen. Many of these are lessons we could have learned from the Vietnam War, but we did not.

In both Vietnam and Afghanistan, the enemy was very real. The Viet Minh began as a nationalist response to the abuses of French colonial rule but upon taking power in the north showed themselves fully committed to the totalitarian ideology that killed and imprisoned tens of millions of people. Their close allies, the Khmer Rouge, perpetrated one of the most staggering genocides since World War II. Their ascendancy sent untold numbers to brutal “reeducation camps,” where many died.

The Taliban, similarly, began as a reformist reaction to the endemic corruption and civil strife that followed the Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan. This promise won them widespread support against the country’s unloved warlords. But once in power, they turned out to be just as heedless of human life as their predecessors, imposing a maniacal, distorted version of Islamic law, stripping women and girls of their basic civil rights, and oppressing adherents of other strains of Islam. They also provided a safe haven to the al-Qaida terrorist movement in the years before the Sept. 11 attacks.

In both Vietnam and Afghanistan, tens of millions of innocent people were subjugated to brutal regimes they had no plausible chance to remove. The case for humanitarian intervention was compelling.

Ours, however, were not true humanitarian interventions. Although we paid lip service to freeing the people of Vietnam and Afghanistan, our primary goals were strategic and self-interested. In Vietnam, we wanted to check the spread of communism, to stop one more domino from falling. In Afghanistan, we wanted to avenge the 9/11 attacks and debilitate al-Qaida.

We could have accommodated both humanitarian and strategic aims: Neutral, honest governments responsive to their respective people’s wills could have checked the spread of communism in Vietnam and expelled al-Qaida from Afghani-

stan. Unfortunately, in both countries we wanted governments responsive to our wishes rather than those of the people.

We selected an authoritarian president for Vietnam, who had his rule confirmed in a fraudulent referendum. We then greenlighted a military coup against him. Corruption was rampant, and the regime imprisoned and tortured thousands of its non-communist opponents. By the time the U.S. forces withdrew, few Vietnamese had much regard for the regime, and it quickly fell.

So, too, in Afghanistan, we imposed our choice for a president, micromanaged allocation of power in the post-Taliban government, and orchestrated deals with the same despicable warlords whose abuses had originally given rise to the Taliban. We looked the other way when the regime perpetuated itself with a series of tainted elections. And the aggressive but unfocused “anti-terrorism” campaigns we demanded alienated the Afghan people by attacking villagers not engaged in violence. As we have seen this summer, once our troops were gone, virtually nobody had any stake in the regime’s survival.

In both countries, we also were myopic. We placed all our faith in the regimes we had installed without strong efforts to develop offsetting power centers and the robust civil society necessary for liberal democracy to survive. We acted in Vietnam as if only communists could oppress their people. Similarly in Afghanistan, we obsessed about radical Islam as the only enemy worthy of consideration, ignoring the corruption and strife that gave rise to the Taliban’s sway in the first place.

Indeed, once we deposed the Taliban we quickly lost interest in favor of the invasion of Iraq. By the time we refocused, the regime that the U.S. installed had irretrievably destroyed its credibility.

Sadly, we are repeating these mistakes on a much grander scale in the Middle East. Obsessed alternatively with fighting Sunni Muslim extremists and countering Shiite Muslim Iran, we act as if corrupt authoritarian regimes like that of Egyptian President Abdel Fattah Sisi are the only alternative.

Just as the corrupt regimes we backed in Vietnam and Afghan-

**By DAVID A. SUPER**

Los Angeles Times

*David A. Super is a professor of law and economics at Georgetown University Law Center. @DavidASuper1*



istan never achieved popular support or staying power against the communists or radical Islamists, the regimes we are backing in the Middle East will not provide a long-term defense against radical Islamic groups hostile to human rights, the preservation of Israel and other U.S. interests.






Even more importantly, the dichotomy between authoritarian strongmen and radical Islamists is just as false in the Middle East as it was in Afghanistan (as was the dichotomy between strongmen and communists in Vietnam). Westerners would never accept such a limited array of choices, and we should stop believing the dictators who insist self-interestedly that people in their region have lower aspirations.

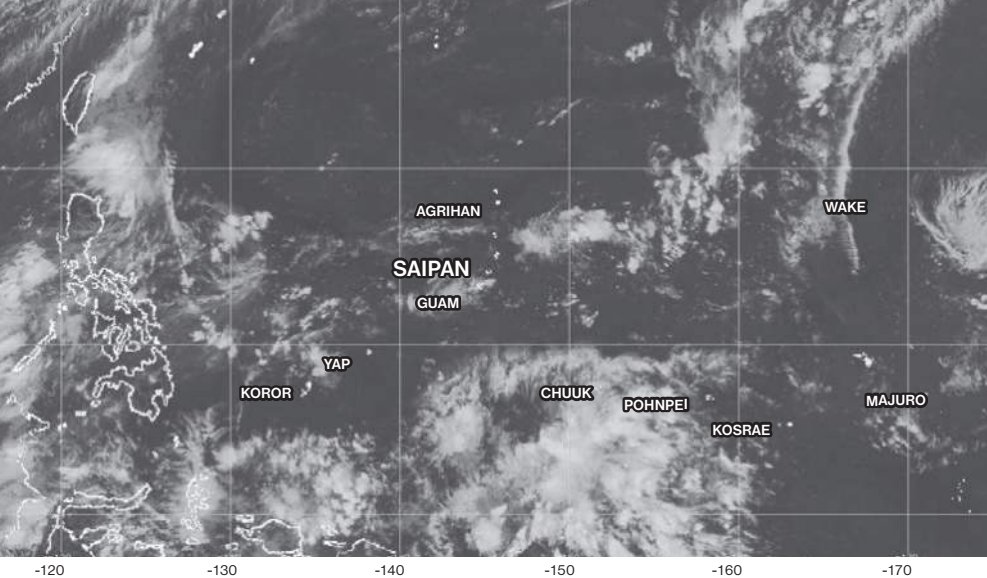
Our true allies in the Middle East are secular democrats, just as they are in other parts of the world. A bitter irony is that these secular democrats are being suppressed by the very authoritarian regimes we keep supporting. Secular democrats, who believe in open political discourse and peaceful protest, are far more vulnerable to repression than conspiratorial radicals hiding in the shadows. Even among Islamic parties, the repressive regimes disproportionately target moderates willing to engage in the democratic process.

We should take a clear stand for democracy, condemning the recent coup in Tunisia, conditioning aid to Egypt on respect for human rights and engaging with a much broader range of leaders and communities in these countries. We cannot afford to see the desperate last days of the U.S.-backed regime in Kabul repeated in Tunis, Cairo or Riyadh.



# The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY	
									
Partly sunny. Isolated showers and thunderstorms. Light and variable winds.		Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.		Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.		Partly cloudy. Isolated showers.		Partly cloudy. Isolated showers.	
87°	78°	87°	78°	87°	78°	87°	78°	87°	78°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



**PICTURE TIME: 6:38 AM, MONDAY, AUGUST 23, 2021**  
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Overnight ASCAT analysis and satellite show the SW to NE oriented surface trough is still drifting and pivoting northward over the islands. Radar and lightning detection networks indicate pulsing showers and a few thunderstorms over the coastal waters. Seas are around 2 to possibly 3 ft with a mix of easterly sources.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

## STOP THE SPREAD

**T**he Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html>
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

**Continue good hand hygiene**

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

**Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic**

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
  - Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
  - Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20

seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at [www.chcc.gov.mp](http://www.chcc.gov.mp) or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit [www.governor.gov.mp](http://www.governor.gov.mp) and, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at <http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html> and at [www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19](http://www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19).

**Rumor control**

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

*Source: Office of the Governor*

MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Mostly cloudy	81 / 89 °F	
Palau	Mostly cloudy	80 / 87 °F	
Yap	Strong thunderstorms	78 / 84 °F	
Chuuk	Mostly cloudy	78 / 88 °F	
Pohnpei	Cloudy	76 / 89 °F	
Kosrae	Morning clouds	80 / 87 °F	
Majuro	Mostly cloudy	82 / 86 °F	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:03 AM	6:34 PM
Wednesday	6:03 AM	6:34 PM
Thursday	6:03 AM	6:33 PM
Friday	6:04 AM	6:32 PM
Saturday	6:04 AM	6:32 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	7:21 AM	8:02 PM
Wednesday	-	8:12 AM	8:39 PM
Thursday	-	9:02 AM	9:16 PM
Friday	-	9:50 AM	9:52 PM
Saturday	-	10:38 AM	10:29 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly cloudy	42 / 54 °F	
Beijing	Morning clouds	69 / 81 °F	
Hong Kong	Mostly cloudy	79 / 89 °F	
Honolulu	Cloudy	74 / 83 °F	
London	Sunny	57 / 74 °F	
Los Angeles	Sunny	69 / 92 °F	
Manila	Tons of rain	79 / 82 °F	
Melbourne	Early fog	48 / 62 °F	
Miami	Cloudy	83 / 89 °F	
New York	Mostly sunny	79 / 92 °F	
Osaka	Partly sunny	77 / 93 °F	
Paris	Sunny	62 / 83 °F	
Pusan	Partly sunny	81 / 93 °F	
Rome	Mostly sunny	60 / 88 °F	
Salem	Mostly sunny	58 / 87 °F	
San Francisco	Morning clouds	56 / 69 °F	
Seoul	Early fog	74 / 91 °F	
Tokyo	Partly sunny	74 / 85 °F	
Washington, DC	Partly sunny	76 / 93 °F	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
2:18 AM	Low Tide	1.11	
7:25 AM	High Tide	2.07	
2:33 PM	Low Tide	-0.09	
9:09 PM	High Tide	1.99	

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 1, 2021							
DEPARTURES			ARRIVALS				
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)			GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN				
UA117	9:15am	9:55am	2, 4, 5, 7	UA174	4:50am	5:50am	1, 3, 6
UA117	6:30am	7:10am	1, 3, 6	UA174	7:30am	8:11am	2, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)			MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN				
UA117/183	6:30am	8:50pm	2, 5 via Guam	UA184/174	9:50pm	5:50am+1	2, 5 via Guam
UA117/183	6:30am	9:10pm	3, 6, 7 via Guam	UA184/174	10:25pm	8:11am+1	3, 6, 7 via Guam
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)			MANILA (MNL)-GUAM				
UA183	6:55pm	8:50pm	2, 5	UA184	9:50pm	4:00am+1	2, 5
UA183	7:15pm	9:10pm	3, 6, 7	UA184	10:25pm	4:40am+1	3, 6, 7
LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. <i>(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)</i>							

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.							
FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 18, 2021							
SAIPAN TO ROTA				1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Daily	1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1302	11:00AM	11:30AM	Daily	1205	11:00	11:15	Daily
1303	1:30PM	2:00PM	Tues/Wed/ Thurs/Fri	1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1304	3:30PM	4:00PM	Daily	1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
ROTA TO SAIPAN				1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
3101	9:30AM	10:00AM	Daily	1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
3102	12:00AM	12:30AM	Daily	1211	17:00	17:15	Daily
3103	1:30PM	3:00PM	Tues/Wed/ Thurs/Fri	1212	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable
3104	4:30PM	5:00PM	Daily	TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
ROTA TO GUAM				FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable	2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
GUAM TO ROTA				2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable	2105	11:30	11:45	Daily
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
				2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
				2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
				2111	17:30	17:45	Daily
				2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable

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# Business

## San Francisco's new rule: Proof of vaccine or no dining in

**SAN FRANCISCO (AP)**—Greg Ryken showed up to his favorite lunch spot in San Francisco on Friday with an appetite and his vaccination record in hand.

A manager at Sam's Grill and Seafood restaurant verified he was fully vaccinated against COVID-19, put him on a list of customers who have met the city's new requirement for future reference, and walked him to his table.

"Easy," Ryken said as San Francisco became the first major city in the U.S. to enforce the strictest vaccine mandate for entering restaurants, bars, gyms and large concerts.

Businesses posted signs and added extra staff to begin verifying people's vaccination and identity cards before allowing them in. Many gyms had already been checking their members' vaccination status before the health order went into effect.

"We tested systems in place to see how we would do it, we were talking to our customers, getting our staff prepared, and we are so thrilled to have the full-throated support of the leadership of our city so we can confidently walk into this new landscape together," said Tracey Sylvester, owner of a

Pilates studio in the Mission neighborhood.

Pete Sittnick, a managing partner of Waterbar and EPIC Steak restaurants on the city's waterfront, said he was worried about slow check-ins, resistance from guests against the requirement or people showing up without proper documentation. So far, he said, the lunch crowd came with vaccination cards in their hands, and the line to get through the door was short.

"The good thing is, if somebody doesn't have their verification of vaccination they can still eat outside. There is an option and we just need to be ready for different scenarios," he said.

Mayor London Breed announced the requirement more than a week ago in an attempt to stem rising COVID-19 cases, saying she was worried the highly contagious delta variant could disrupt the city's economic rebound. She also hopes it will encourage vaccine holdouts to join the 79% of the population that have gotten their shots.

"This is not a punishment," Breed said Friday. "It's really about a chance to try and get us moving in the right direc-



From left, Stephen Lee, Adrianne Tong and Audrey Tong, wait to have their vaccination records checked before entering the Waterbar restaurant Friday, Aug. 20, 2021, in San Francisco. **AP**

tion and keeping people safe."

The mandate goes further than New York City, which requires people to be at least partially vaccinated for a variety of high-risk indoor activities, and New Orleans, which requires proof of vaccination or a negative COVID-19 test for indoor dining or drinking. All three cities make exceptions for people who don't qualify for the vaccine, including chil-

dren under 12.

It follows a number of tough safety measures San Francisco imposed since the beginning of the pandemic. The city and its neighboring counties in the Bay Area were the first in the U.S. to issue a stay-at-home order, and was the first big city in the nation to require all city employees to be vaccinated, without the option of testing regularly.

This week, the city sent let-

ters recommending a 10-day suspension without pay for 20 employees in police, fire and sheriff's departments who refused to report their vaccination status by the Aug. 12 deadline, the San Francisco Chronicle reported.

Gov. Gavin Newsom has also tighten the rules after announcing the reopening of California's economy in June. He has required health care

workers to get vaccinated to keep their jobs and all teachers and state workers to either get vaccinated or submit to weekly testing.

Local business groups have supported the new vaccine mandate, saying it will protect their employees' and customers' health and keep them from having to limit capacity indoors. Some businesses that had taken it upon themselves to check for proof of vaccination at the door said a citywide policy helps set clear expectations for all customers.

Jody McCord said the mandate forced her to cancel plans to meet relatives visiting from Wisconsin at her favorite dine-in spots because not everyone in her party is fully vaccinated. They had to take their reunion across San Francisco Bay to a restaurant in Sausalito.

"It puts people between a rock and a hard place," McCord said.

Online ordering and reservation systems such as OpenTable are helping businesses by warning customers of the mandate ahead of time. The city's hospitality industry has launched a campaign called "Relax, We're Vaxxed" to get the word out to travelers.

### **BUSINESS BRIEFS**

#### **Pop-up restaurants may stick around as COVID sees resurgence**

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Pop-up restaurants, many started as stopgap measures by struggling chefs and owners, may have staying power as consumers continue to embrace takeout and delivery and the delta variant threatens to make dining in less of an option. Pop-up restaurants can take a variety of forms, from a ramen maker appearing for one-night only at an established bar or restaurant, to a taco maker using an unused space to temporarily host diners, to a chef offering meatballs for delivery only. Cheaper to operate than regular restaurants because they have less overhead and staffing costs, pop-ups let chefs and owners keep working and making a living during the early part of the pandemic when dining rooms were closed and the economy was teetering. They've helped bring buzz to existing restaurants that host them. And some have even morphed into permanent new businesses. Now, as re-openings across the country are threatened by a rise in COVID-19 cases, pop-up creators and hosts are asking, "What next?"

#### **1st cruise ship from California in months heads to Mexico**

**LONG BEACH, Calif. (AP)**—A cruise ship headed for the Mexican Riviera set sail from the Port of Long Beach on Saturday—the first cruise ship to depart from California in 17 months. The Carnival Panorama is on a seven-day voyage and will stop in the Mexican ports of Cabo San Lucas and Mazatlan before returning to Long Beach, Carnival Corp. said in a statement. The 1,060-foot Carnival Panorama debuted in 2019. Passenger Bob Lehtreck said he and his wife

were on the inaugural sailing on Dec. 11, 2019. "I can't tell you how excited I am to be on the Panorama for its inaugural return to service," Lehtreck told the Press-Telegram in a text. «It's been way too long since we've sailed, and we couldn't be happier returning to our favorite activity." The cruise industry was hard-hit by the pandemic after passengers and crew members tested positive for COVID-19 and some ships were turned away from ports. The industry has battled the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention over health requirements for resuming sailing in U.S. waters.

#### **Judge: California ride-hailing law is unconstitutional**

**LOS ANGELES (AP)**—A judge Friday struck down a California ballot measure that exempted Uber and other app-based ride-hailing and delivery services from a state law requiring drivers to be classified as employees eligible for benefits and job protections. Alameda County Superior Court Judge Frank Roesch ruled that Proposition 22 was unconstitutional. Voters approved the measure in November after Uber, Lyft and other services spent \$200 million in its favor, making it the most expensive ballot measure in state history. Uber said it planned to appeal, setting up a fight that could likely end up in the California Supreme Court. "This ruling ignores the will of the overwhelming majority of California voters and defies both logic and the law," company spokesman Noah Edwardsen said. "You don't have to take our word for it: California's attorney general strongly defended Proposition 22's constitutionality in this very case." He said the measure will remain in force pending the appeal.

## Bus driver shortages are latest challenge hitting US schools

**HELENA, Mont. (AP)**—A Montana school district is dangling \$4,000 bonuses and inviting people to test drive big yellow school buses in hopes of enticing them to take a job that schools are struggling to fill as kids return to in-person classes.

A Delaware school district offered to pay parents \$700 to take care of their own transportation, and a Pittsburgh district delayed the start of classes and said hundreds more children would have to walk to school. Schools across the U.S. are offering hiring bonuses, providing the training needed to get a commercial driver's license and increasing hourly pay to attract more drivers.

The shortage of bus drivers is complicating the start of a school year already besieged by the highly contagious delta variant of COVID-19, contentious disagreement over masking requirements, and the challenge of catching up on educational ground lost as the pandemic raged last year.

The driver shortfall isn't new, but a labor shortage across many sectors and the pandemic's lingering effects have made it worse, since about half the workforce was over 65 and more vulnerable to the virus, said Joanna McFarland, co-founder and CEO



School buses parked in Helena, Mont., ahead of the beginning of the school year, Friday, Aug. 20, 2021. **AP**

of school ride-service company HopSkipDrive, which tracks school bus issues.

Her company conducted a survey in March that found nearly 80% of districts that responded were having trouble finding enough bus drivers.

"It's really at a breaking point," McFarland said.

First Student, a company that contracts bus service for school districts around the county, held test driving events they called "Big Bus, No Big Deal" in Montana and many other states this summer to give people an opportunity to try their hand at driving. The hope was that it could remove a barrier to those who otherwise might be interested

in helping get kids safely to and from school, said Dan Redford, with First Student in Helena, Montana.

"We actually set up a closed course at the fairgrounds, and we invited the public to come in and learn that it's not a big deal to drive a big bus," Redford said. "They're actually pretty easy to drive. You sit up high. You've got plenty of view."

In Helena, the company has 50 bus drivers and needs 21 more before classes start on Aug. 30, a shortfall Redford called unprecedented.

Attendance ended up being light at Helena's event, but similar demos, like one held recently in Seattle, led to more applications.



# Nation

## 22 dead, many missing after 17 inches of rain in Tennessee

**WAVERLY, Tenn. (AP)**—At least 22 people were killed and rescue crews searched desperately Sunday amid shattered homes and tangled debris for dozens of people still missing after record-breaking rain sent floodwaters surging through Middle Tennessee.

Saturday's flooding in rural areas took out roads, cell-phone towers and telephone lines, leaving families uncertain about whether their loved ones survived the unprecedented deluge. Emergency workers were searching door to door, said Kristi Brown, a coordinator for health and safety supervisor with Humphreys County Schools.

Many of the missing live in the neighborhoods where the water rose the fastest, said Humphreys County Sheriff Chris Davis, who confirmed the 22 fatalities in his county. The names of the missing were on a board in the county's emergency center and listed on a city department's Facebook page.

"I would expect, given the



John Curtis, co-owner of Waverly Cash Saver grocery store, walks through his damaged store Sunday, Aug. 22, 2021, in Waverly, Tenn.

number of fatalities, that we're going to see mostly recovery efforts at this point rather than rescue efforts," Tennessee Emergency Management Director Patrick Sheehan said.

The dead included twin ba-

bies who were swept from their father's arms, according to surviving family members, and a foreman at county music star Loretta Lynn's ranch. The sheriff of the county of about 18,000 people some 60 miles (96 kilo-

meters) west of Nashville said he lost one of his best friends.

Up to 17 inches (43 centimeters) of rain fell in Humphreys County in less than 24 hours Saturday, shattering the Tennessee record for one-day

rainfall by more than 3 inches (8 centimeters), the National Weather Service said.

Tennessee Gov. Bill Lee toured the area, calling it a "devastating picture of loss and heartache." He stopped on Main Street in Waverly where some homes were washed off their foundations and people were sifting through their water-logged possessions. All around the county were debris from

wrecked cars, demolished businesses and homes and a chaotic, tangled mix of the things inside.

Shirley Foster cried as the governor walked up. She said she just learned a friend from her church was dead.

"I thought I was over the shock of all this. I'm just tore up over my friend. My house is nothing, but my friend is gone," Foster told the governor.

### ACROSS THE NATION

#### Texas congressman Nehls says he tested positive for COVID-19

**HOUSTON (AP)**—U.S. Rep. Troy Nehls of Texas says that he's tested positive for COVID-19 and has moderate symptoms. Nehls, a Republican from the Houston area, said Saturday that he is fully vaccinated and hopes the symptoms pass soon. "All Americans are free to make their own health decisions, but I strongly encourage getting vaccinated," he wrote on Twitter Saturday. "It is scientifically proven to drastically reduce the risk of severe illness & death from COVID." Nehls, the former sheriff of Fort Bend County who was elected to Congress last year, had said on Wednesday that a close family member had tested positive. Nehls said he has been quarantining at home and will continue to do so for at least the next 10 days.

(AP)—Storm Henri weakened into a tropical depression Sunday night, as it crawled over the Northeast and continued to unleash downpours over a region already saturated by heavy rain. At about 8 p.m. Sunday, the storm was located about 10 miles (15 km) southwest of Hartford, Connecticut, with sustained winds of up to 35 mph (55 kph), according to the National Hurricane Center. The storm was expected to produce heavy rainfall and flooding across areas of New England, New York, New Jersey and northeast Pennsylvania on Sunday into Monday. The storm was crawling west-northwest late Sunday evening at 7 mph (11 kph). It is expected to stall near the Connecticut-New York border, before making a slow turn north Monday morning, followed by movement east-northeast in the afternoon.

#### Jesse Jackson and wife remain under observation for COVID-19

**CHICAGO (AP)**—The Rev. Jesse Jackson, and his wife, Jacqueline, remained under doctors' observation Sunday at a Chicago hospital and were "responding positively to treatments" for COVID-19, their son told The Associated Press. The couple, married for nearly six decades, were admitted to Northwestern Memorial Hospital a day earlier. Physicians were "carefully monitoring their condition" because of their ages, Jonathan Jackson, one of the couple's five children, said in a statement. Jesse Jackson is 79, and Jacqueline is 77. "Both are resting comfortably and are responding positively to their treatments," Jonathan Jackson said. "My family appreciates all of the expressions of concern and prayers that have been offered on their behalf, and we will continue to offer our prayers for your family as well."

#### Protesters clash in Portland after opposing gatherings

**PORTLAND, Ore. (AP)**—Opposing rallies that drew hundreds of people in Portland, Oregon, sparked clashes on Sunday. The two groups had gathered in different parts of the city after a far-right group changed the location of its event. The right-wing rally drew about 100 people in a parking lot of a former Kmart store and clashes began as it wound down, KOIN-TV reported. A van tried to drive into the parking lot, but crashed and the driver ran away. Demonstrators then began igniting fireworks and similar devices. It was not immediately clear whether anyone suffered serious injuries. Later, shots were fired near demonstrators downtown. Dustin Brandon Ferreira, 37, a left-wing activist, told The Oregonian/OregonLive he was with others Sunday evening when a man used a slur against a Black man in the group and then fired multiple rounds in their direction. Portland police said the man was arrested. No one was injured.

## Biden says US-led evacuation from Kabul is accelerating

**WASHINGTON (AP)**—President Joe Biden said Sunday the U.S.-led evacuation of Americans, at-risk Afghans and others from the Kabul airport accelerated this weekend, although it remains vulnerable to threats posed by the Islamic State extremist group.

One week after the Taliban completed its takeover of Afghanistan by capturing Kabul, Biden said discussions are underway among military officials about potentially extending the airlift beyond Biden's Aug. 31 deadline. "Our hope is we will not have to extend, but there are discussions," he said, suggesting the possibility that the Taliban will be consulted.

Since Aug. 14, one day before the Taliban entered Kabul, the airlift has evacuated

28,000 people, Biden said. He said that included 11,000 who had departed from Kabul in a 36-hour period this weekend, but he did not provide details. The number appeared to include flights by charter and non-U.S. military aircraft as well as the U.S. Air Force C-17 and C-130 transport planes that have been flying daily from the capital. The U.S. military is controlling air traffic on both the civilian and military sides of the airport.

Tens of thousands of people remain to join the airlift, which has been slowed by security issues and U.S. bureaucracy hurdles.

Biden asserted, without

a full explanation, that U.S. forces have managed to improve access to the airport for Americans and others seeking to get on flights. He suggested that the perimeter had been extended, widening a "safe zone."

"What I'm not going to do is talk about the tactical changes we're making to make sure we maintain as much security as we can," he said. "We have constantly, how can I say it, increased rational access to the airport, where more folk can get there more safely. It's still a dangerous operation but I don't want to go into the detail of how we're doing that."

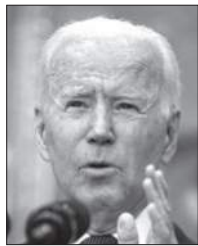
Later Biden added: "We've

discussed a lot with the Taliban. They've been cooperative in extending some of the perimeter."

He said groups of Americans in Kabul are being moved more efficiently and safely to the airport, but he provided no details.

"Any American who wants to get home, will get home," he asserted.

Earlier Sunday, administration officials said the U.S. military is considering "creative ways" to get Americans and others into the Kabul airport for evacuation from Afghanistan amid "acute" security threats, and the Pentagon on Sunday ordered six U.S. commercial airlines to help move evacuees from temporary sites outside of Afghanistan.



Biden

## No containment, new threats from Northern California fire

**PLACERVILLE, Calif. (AP)**—A wildfire burning for a week in Northern California continued to grow out of control, one of about a dozen big blazes in the drought-stricken state that have destroyed hundreds of homes and forced thousands of people to evacuate.

There was zero containment Sunday of the Caldor Fire, which had charred nearly 154 square miles (399 square kilometers) of trees and brush in the northern Sierra Nevada after breaking out Aug. 14. The

cause was under investigation.

Firefighters hoped to take advantage of calmer weather and cooler temperatures a day after gusts pushed the fire across U.S. Route 50, threatening more remote communities in El Dorado County.

Erratic winds sent embers flying into tinder-dry fuel beds, starting new ignition points and challenging crews trying to chase down the flames in rugged terrain.

"We know this fire has done things that nobody could have predicted, but that's how fire-

fighting has been in the state this year," Eldorado National Forest Supervisor Chief Jeff Marsolais said.

Multiple large wildfires have incinerated at least 700 homes, many in and around the Sierra Nevada communities of Greenville and Grizzly Flats. About 13,000 residences remained under threat in communities tucked away in scenic forests.

The fires have burned roughly 2,300 square miles (6,000 square kilometers) and have sent smoke as far as the East Coast. They were burning

in grass, brush and forest that is exceptionally dry from two years of drought likely exacerbated by climate change.

Nine national forests in California have been closed because of the fire threat.

To the northwest of the Caldor Fire, the massive Dixie Fire also kept expanding. In five weeks, the blaze about 175 miles (282 kilometers) northeast of San Francisco became the second-largest in state history and blackened an area twice the size of Los Angeles. It was 37% contained.



# Asia

## With black flags, Sri Lanka Christians protest bombing probe

**COLOMBO, Sri Lanka** (AP)—Sri Lanka's Christian community hoisted black flags at churches and homes on Saturday to express anger over the government's investigation into the 2019 Easter Sunday bomb attacks, which killed 269 people.

Twenty-five people were charged last week in connection with the bombings. But the country's Catholic Church says these could be "smaller fish," and accuses the government of still not taking steps to identify the true conspirators. The head of the archdiocese of Colombo, Cardinal Malcolm Ranjith, has raised questions over allegations that state intelligence personnel knew and met with the attackers.

Two local Muslim groups that had pledged allegiance to the Islamic State group were blamed for the six near-simultaneous suicide bomb attacks, which hit three churches and three luxury hotels on April 21, 2019. It is not known if the



Black flags are seen in front of St. Anthony's Church, in Colombo, Sri Lanka, Saturday, Aug. 21, 2021.

groups had actual links to the Islamic State.

Under cloudy skies, a row of large black flags billowed in the wind Saturday in front of St. Anthony's Church, which was targeted in the 2019 attacks. Behind a concrete barrier, religious statues overlooked armed police and signs that read: "Hiding the truth is a grand political conspiracy."

In some areas, Muslim residents hoisted black flags in a

show of solidarity.

Church bells tolled at 8:45 a.m., the time the first blast occurred. Prayer services were held inside St. Anthony's, but with empty pews because of a 10-day coronavirus lockdown that began late Friday.

Still, a small group carried out a silent protest at St. Sebastian's Church in Negombo, a predominantly Catholic area north of Colombo where 115 people were killed.

sustainability.

The two nations agreed to cooperate more closely to track COVID-19 variants and engage in research on coronavirus treatments. And the Department of Commerce is joining with the Singapore Ministry of Trade and Industry to create a partnership focused on strengthening trade throughout a handful of key industries.

The White House announced additional agreements between the two nations fostering cooperation on space exploration and defense issues as well. The announcements came Monday after Harris met with Singapore President Halimah Yacob, and Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong.

## Harris in Singapore for Asia visit

**SINGAPORE** (AP)—The White House on Monday announced a series of new agreements with Singapore aimed at combating cyberthreats, tackling climate change, addressing the COVID-19 pandemic and alleviating supply chain issues. The announcements coincide with Vice President Kamala Harris' visit to the region, as part of the Biden administration's efforts to counter Chinese influence there.

On cybersecurity, the Treasury and Defense Departments, as well as the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure

Security Agency, have each inked a memorandum of understanding with their Singapore counterparts expanding information sharing and training to combat cyber threats,

On climate, the two nations are launching the U.S.-Singapore Climate Partnership, a new effort between the Departments of Commerce, Energy, Transportation and Treasury and their counterparts in Singapore to develop new climate standards and collaborate on projects to expand clean energy infrastructure development and improve



Harris

## Taiwan's president gets domestically made vaccine

**TAIPEI, Taiwan** (AP)—Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen received her first dose of the island's domestically developed coronavirus vaccine on Monday, launching its rollout to the public.

The vaccine, made by Medigen Vaccine Biologics Corp., was given emergency approval by regulators in July using a shortcut that prompted fierce opposition from parts of Taiwan's medical and scientific community.

Taiwanese regulators bypassed the large-scale, longer term studies that are typically used to approve vaccines. Instead, they compared the level of antibodies that Medigen's vaccine was able to generate with that of AstraZeneca's

vaccine, which has been approved by many governments and has undergone the full three stages of clinical trials.

The two-dose Medigen protein subunit vaccine uses a piece of the coronavirus to teach the body to mount an immune response.

The decision to give approval based on the new standard prompted an expert from the advisory committee on vaccines to resign.

Critics say granting approval before finishing full clinical trials does not provide adequate information on how effective the vaccine is in the real world in protecting from COVID-19, although initial studies may have promising results.

The level of antibodies in

the blood is known to correlate with protection from the disease, but scientists do not yet know what the exact level is.

Regulators said Medigen will be required to submit real-world efficacy data within a year of the approval. They said when approving the vaccine that data provided by Medigen showed that it produced 3.4 times the level of neutralizing antibodies as that of AstraZeneca's vaccine.

Tsai received her first dose of the vaccine on Monday morning at a gymnasium at National Taiwan University in Taipei. Like other patients, she checked in for her appointment by slotting her national health insurance card into the computer system.

# World

## WORLD BRIEFS

### Haitians return to quake-damaged churches, gangs offer aid

**LES CAYES, Haiti** (AP)—A Haitian gang leader on Sunday offered a truce and help for communities shattered by a devastating earthquake—potentially offering a break for a relief effort that has been plagued by hijacked aid trucks and disorder. The offer came as many Haitians resumed services in or outside damaged churches, sometimes for the first time since the magnitude 7.2 quake of Aug. 14. The country's Civil Protection Agency also raised toll of dead to 2,207. It wasn't immediately clear how much impact the truce offer might have: While powerful, Jimmy Cherizier, alias "Barbecue," is far from the only gang leader in Haiti and widely repeated social media reports of an earlier gang truce failed to prevent attacks on the expanding relief effort. Gangs have blocked roads, hijacked aid trucks and stolen supplies, forcing relief workers to transport supplies by helicopter. In places, desperate crowds have scuffled over bags of food. Cherizier addressed a Facebook video on Sunday to the hardest-hit parts of the Haiti's southwestern peninsula, saying "We want to tell them that the G9 Revolutionary Forces and allies, all for one and one for all, sympathize with their pain and sorrows."

### Israel strikes Gaza after violent protests along border

**JERUSALEM** (AP)—Israel's military bombed Palestinian militant weapons sites in the Gaza Strip early Sunday in response to a

violent demonstration on the perimeter fence that left an Israeli police officer critically injured, the army said. Saturday's violence erupted after hundreds of Palestinians took part in a demonstration organized by Gaza's Hamas rulers to draw attention to the Israeli-Egyptian blockade of the territory. The demonstration grew violent after dozens of people approached the fortified border fence and threw rocks and explosives toward Israeli soldiers from behind a black smoke screen billowing from burning tires. At least 24 Palestinians, including a 13-year-old, were injured by Israeli gunfire, according to the Gaza health ministry. An Israeli Border Police officer was shot and critically injured. The army said in a statement that in response to the violent demonstrations, fighter planes hit "four weapons and storage manufacturing sites" belonging to Gaza's Hamas rulers, and that the military deployed additional troops to the region near the border with the Palestinian enclave. There were no immediate reports of injuries in the airstrikes.

### Swedish PM Stefan Lofven to step down in November

**STOCKHOLM** (AP)—Stefan Lofven, Sweden's Social Democratic prime minister since 2014, said Sunday that he will step down as head of government and the party in November. The unexpected announcement—made during his annual summer speech—came ahead of next year's general election and after Lofven in June became the first Swedish leader ever to lose a motion in parliament.

IN CELEBRATION OF HIS NEW LIFE

*Nelcito Geronimo Pascual*

Born on January 29, 1952 | Died on August 9, 2021

His memories will forever live in the hearts of his:

<b>Wife:</b>	Arcelina Pascual
<b>Children:</b>	Albert/Jenny Pascual Christelle /Kenneth Paran
<b>Grandchildren:</b>	Jeal Nathaniel Pascual Jeal Nasharnel Pascual
<b>Brother:</b>	Renato Pascual
<b>Nephew:</b>	Dennis Santos and Family
<b>Saipan Family:</b>	Larry Manacop



A memorial service and public viewing for Tatay †Nelcito is scheduled on Wednesday, August 25, 2021, from 8am-9am at Borja Funeral Homes Divine Mercy Chapel, Chalan Kanoa.

We, the family of late †Nelcito Geronimo Pascual, wish to express our gratitude and appreciation to our families, friends and colleagues for your prayers, sympathy, assistance, and generosity to us during this most difficult time in our lives. As we grieve the loss of our beloved one, we are comforted by your actions and thoughts, and we know he is in God's everlasting care. We are eternally grateful for your compassion, and we will keep you in our prayers and in our hearts. Thank you, God bless.

*The Family*



But it is good for me to draw near to God: I have put my trust in the Lord God, that I may declare all thy works. — Psalms 73:28



## Overdrive

## Nissan unleashes a new Frontier for 2022

By LARRY PRINTZ  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

**S**UNDANCE, Utah—The last time Nissan offered a redesigned Frontier pickup truck, George W. Bush was starting his second term as president, Hurricane Katrina decimated New Orleans and a new website debuted named YouTube.

Yes, it's been a while since there's been a truly new Frontier.

Hiren Patel, project lead designer at Nissan Design America in San Diego, where the Frontier was designed, said the new truck's look was informed by Nissan's mid-1980s Hardbody pickup, the first truck designed by Nissan in San Diego. "I really like the cleanliness of that design," Patel said during the Frontier's launch last month in Utah. "Every panel has a purpose, and the look of toughness to it even though it's a small truck."

But Patel and his staff were careful not to make the new truck too trendy. This is a vehicle where timelessness is a virtue; trendiness is not. "They're looking for things that are maybe a bit more longstanding, that are going to look good in 10 or 15 years."

Mission accomplished.

In a world gone crazy for size, the Nissan Frontier is all-new, yet very recognizable in character. Its chiseled front grille and LED lighting wrap rearward into softer forms that give it an underlying strength. Its size is perfect, whether you opt for the Crew Cab or King Cab. You won't find it too wide for trails or that narrow parking spot.

For 2022, the King Cab will be offered rear-wheel and four-wheel drive in S and SV trim. The roomier Crew Cab is available with rear-wheel and four-wheel drive in S and



The 2022 Nissan Frontier has a 3.8-liter V-6 engine that provides 310 horsepower and 281 pound-feet of torque. It is mated to a nine-speed automatic. NISSAN/TNS

SV trim with the standard bed, and in SV trim with a long bed. Crew Cabs are also available in the off-road-ready PRO-4X (four-wheel drive only) and a new-for-2022 PRO-X (rear-wheel drive only).

Timelessly handsome, the 2022 Nissan Frontier's exterior styling is devoid of trendy gimmicks or styling excess. It's chiseled "interlocking" grille, fascia, hood and fenders wrap seamlessly into the softer forms that Patel feels projects

an unseen and unsaid strength. "If you imagine the shoulder of somebody who's very strong, that's a soft

shape," Patel said. "When I think of strong-looking panels, I tend to think of a softer shape."

But the Patel and his crew were careful to design a truck that could then be customized by the customer, not the company. So, you can get a sprayed-in bedliner from the factory (optional on SV and PRO-4X), and the bed has tiedown points. The tailgate is dampened, and the rear bumper makes for a handy step.

That same rational sensibility continues inside. There's nothing flashy here, just levelheaded design that works. It doesn't look as if it's festooned with

the latest tech, even though it is. The nine-inch touchscreen is large and placed at the top center of the instrument panel. The software interface is easy to understand and operate, and Nissan's designers sensibly designed it with two large knobs for the audio system's volume tuning, rather than using on-screen slider controls, which are impossible to use while wearing work gloves. Similarly, the climate controls are placed below the infotainment screen, and are easy to operate with gloves on.

But little prepares you for this truck's biggest surprise: its refinement. That shouldn't come as a surprise, given the product it's replacing is 16 years old, meaning its engineering is closer to 20 years old.

On-road behavior is exemplary, even in Pro-4X trim. Its newfound refinement can be found in the Fron-

tier's lack of body motions over bumps. There's a noticeable absence of excess rebound that you'd expect in a truck tuned for off-road prowess. Bumps are well-absorbed, making for a comfortably civilized ride. The responsive steering has a nice heft to it, even at low speeds. There's a noticeable lack of noise, be it from wind, road or tires. It's astonishingly quiet. That's especially true off road, a truly pleasant surprise.

And should you take it off-road, you'll find it to be very capable. Pushing it through a more extreme trail that most owners would never subject their truck to, the Frontier's part-time system proved more than enough once the sidewalk ends. No, there aren't any trail modes, just the hardware you need to get the job done: a part-time, shift-on-the-fly four-wheel-drive system with a four-wheel-drive low range and locking differential. It tackled a twisting, narrow, rock-strewn trail with the aplomb of a faithful steed. The truck handled the trail so admirably that I felt the urge to name it, much like a trusty horse.

The Frontier's V-6 engine is rated at 315 horsepower, and there's more than enough power for anything you'd need. The nine-speed transmission does seem to be more concerned about fuel economy at times, so it seems you're frequently asking for power in hilly terrain, even though the power is there. The solution is to shift for yourself, which delivers a far more satisfactory experience, particularly off-road.

The redesigned Nissan Frontier is a must-drive against its competition, as it provides the no-nonsense utility that once characterized all pickups before some of them went Hollywood and started growing needlessly large. It's a breath of sanity in an unrelenting size war.

Size does matter, but bigger isn't always better. This Nissan proves that.

## NUTS &amp; BOLTS

- Base price: \$37,240
- Engine: 3.8-liter direct injection V6
- Horsepower/torque: 310/281 pound-feet
- EPA fuel economy (city/highway): 17/22 mpg
- Length/Width/Height: 210.2/73.7/72.1 inches
- Bed size (length/width/height): 58.9/61.4/19.4 inches
- Payload: 1,610 pounds
- Towing capacity: 6,720 pounds

## OK to fill it up?

**Q**: To the best of my knowledge, in Minnesota it is illegal to use non-oxy gasoline in any vehicle except classic/collector vehicles, off-road, farm, and small engines, etc. If my info is incorrect, I'd love to know, so I can start using non-oxy in my Grand Cherokee. I have a 1963 Principality of Monaco T-Bird that is run using only non/oxy fuel.

**A**: According to Minnesota statutes under section 239.791 OXYGENATED GASOLINE, "...a person responsible for the product shall ensure that all gasoline sold or offered for sale in Minnesota must contain at least the quantity of biofuel required ... ." The gas pumps must have a notice stating that non-oxygenated gas is for use in collector vehicles, off-road vehicles, motorcycles, boats, snowmobiles and small engines only. Although I stayed in a Holiday Inn Express one night, I am not a lawyer, but I concur your T-Bird passes, but not your Jeep. Besides, the onus appears to be on the seller, not the buyer. Happy motoring.

**Q**: I have a 2016 Ford Explorer that recently started smelling musty when the A/C is first turned on. The service writer at the local Ford dealership said there isn't anything that can be done except maybe spray an antibacterial into the ducts. This doesn't sound right. It seems to me that the evaporator pans should have drains and maybe are clogged and can be

cleaned. What is your thought?

**A**: If the evaporator drain is clogged, the evaporator will ice up blocking airflow. As the car sits overnight, the dark, warm moist environment is like a petri dish for microorganisms. The simplest solution is to turn off the A/C and put the fan on high for the last five minutes of driving to dry out the HVAC plenum.

**Q**: Regarding cleaning sunroof drain hoses, a trombone cleaning brush works very well!

**A**: Just my luck. I used to play trumpet.

**Q**: I have a vehicle that has lots of automation and I would like to know if it is better to let the car's automation handle the tasks or do it myself. I set the vehicle on the biggest following distance available when using cruise control. I was wondering if I should allow the vehicle to do the braking and the acceleration or to do it myself. When traveling freeway speeds, I never use the autobraking. I apply the brakes way sooner.

**A**: Autonomous vehicles are making their way into the nation's fleet. Little by little computers are replacing humans. This is usually a good thing since computers never get distracted. Their reaction time is better than us. Computers also control fuel use better. I consider myself an excellent driver, but my cruise control constantly beats me in the MPG competition.

**Q**: A few weeks ago, you mentioned always going with

## MOTORMOUTH

By BOB WEBER

Tribune News Service

Bob Weber is a writer and mechanic who became an ASE-certified Master Automobile Technician in 1976. Send questions along with name and town to motormouth.tribune@gmail.com.



the tire pressures stated on the vehicle sticker, regardless of what the tire capacity states on the sidewall. What about antique cars? I have an original unrestored 1961 Oldsmobile Dynamic 88 that my father bought new in Feb 1961. The manual says 22 psi but that was for the old bias ply tires. It has Coker Classic radials now and I drive the car at 32-34 psi. Max inflation is 40 or 44psi.

**A**: Bias ply tires are more sensitive to overheating. For this reason, lower cold inflation pressures are often specified. Inflating your radials as you do, is probably fine. I suggest contacting Coker for their professional opinion.



# Life & Style

## A mixed box office weekend as ‘Free Guy’ tops again

By LINDSEY BAHR  
AP FILM WRITER

Four new films with major stars from Hugh Jackman to Michael Keaton opened in North American movie theaters this weekend and only the one with animated puppies fared well. But it wasn't enough to beat out Ryan Reynolds' action-comedy "Free Guy," which topped the charts for the second weekend running.

"PAW Patrol: The Movie," a Paramount release targeted at very young kids that's also streaming on Paramount+, earned \$13 million in ticket sales according to studio estimates Sunday. It was by far the best of the new openers, which included three adult-skewing films that failed to find significant audiences: The action pic "The Protégé," with Keaton and Maggie Q, the sci-fi thriller "Reminiscence," which is also streaming on HBO Max, and the well-reviewed Rebecca Hall horror "The Night House."

First place went to "Free Guy," a 20th Century and Disney release that's playing exclusively in theaters.

It dropped a miniscule 34% and added \$18.8 million this weekend, bringing its global total to \$112 million. The studio attributed the strong hold to good word of mouth.

"Free Guy" is a movie that harkens back to the days when strong word of mouth and a really engaged star, Ryan Reynolds, combine to make for a great theatrical-first release," said Comscore senior media analyst Paul Dergarabedian. "It shows that a theatrical-first release even in today's unusual marketplace can have legs. It feels very 2019, not pandemic-era."

The relative success of "PAW Patrol" came as a bit of a surprise, even to those involved. Although the movie is based on an immensely popular Nickelodeon series, its target audience of under 6-year-olds is a wild card. Delta variant concerns and its availability to stream at home made it even more of a moving target.

Chris Aronson, the president of domestic distribution for Paramount Pictures said the weekend was a "Very nice, very pleasant surprise."

"It's a younger skewing au-



This image released by 20th Century Studios shows Ryan Reynolds in a scene from "Free Guy."

dience and we're in interesting times, but I think our marketing teams, both on our side and the exhibition side, did a terrific job at getting the message out," Aronson said. "The pups are very beloved and have a very, very loyal audience."

The studio said the audience who turned out to theaters was diverse (41% white, 34% Hispanic and 20% Black) and predominately comprised of families with very young children. Aronson also noted that for the younger kids, "PAW Patrol" is likely their first experience in a movie theater ever.

Celebrities who voiced

characters in "PAW Patrol" included Tyler Perry, Jimmy Kimmel, Yara Shahidi and Kim Kardashian.

Disney's "Jungle Cruise," which is available to rent on Disney+ for \$30, landed in third place in its fourth weekend in release. So far, the Dwayne Johnson and Emily Blunt action-adventure has grossed \$174 million globally.

In its first weekend, Millenium Media's "The Protégé," starring Keaton, Q and Samuel L. Jackson, earned \$2.9 million from 2,577 locations. Distributed by Lionsgate, the Martin Campbell-directed ac-

tion pic about Q's assassin character Anna, who is seeking justice, got mixed-to-positive reviews.

Searchlight's "The Night House," which was very well-reviewed, didn't connect with its opening weekend audience, who gave it a C- CinemaScore. The indie horror about a recently widowed woman played by Hall grossed an estimated \$2.9 million from 2,240 locations.

Meanwhile, "Reminiscence" with Jackman, Rebecca Ferguson and Thandiwe Newton fizzled with only \$2 million from 3,265 locations. The directorial debut of "Westworld" co-creator Lisa Joy, "Reminiscence" is also streaming on HBO Max.

It's one of several Warner Bros.' adult-skewing films that have underwhelmed with the hybrid release strategy, including the thrillers "Those Who Wish Me Dead," with Angelina Jolie and "The Little Things," with Denzel Washington. The studio is releasing all of its 2021 slate on HBO Max and in theaters simultaneously.

"I think there is a consumer confusion," Dergarabedian said of the many hybrid release strat-

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Comscore. Final domestic figures will be released Monday.	
1.	"Free Guy," \$18.8 million.
2.	"PAW Patrol: The Movie," \$13 million.
3.	"Jungle Cruise," \$6.2 million.
4.	"Don't Breathe 2," \$5.1 million.
5.	"Respect," \$3.8 million.
6.	"The Suicide Squad," \$3.4 million.
7.	"The Protégé," \$2.9 million.
8.	"The Night House," \$2.9 million.
9.	"Reminiscence," \$2 million.
10.	"Black Widow," \$1.2 million.

egies. "When people are faced with myriad options, they have to figure out how when and where they can get that content. To rise above the noise, you really have to have a film that's buzzworthy. 'Free Guy' is that buzzworthy movie and it's only available in theaters."

## Josephine Baker is 1st Black woman given Paris burial honor

PARIS (AP)—The remains of American-born singer and dancer Josephine Baker will be reinterred at the Pantheon monument in Paris, making the entertainer who is a World War II hero in France the first Black woman to get the country's highest honor.

Le Parisien newspaper reported Sunday that French President Emmanuel Macron

decided to organize a ceremony on Nov. 30 at the Paris monument, which houses the remains of scientist Marie Curie, French philosopher Voltaire, writer Victor Hugo and other French luminaries.

The presidential palace confirmed the newspaper's report. After her death in 1975,



Baker

Baker was buried in Monaco, dressed in a French military uniform with the medals she received for her role as part of the French Resistance during the war.

Baker will be the fifth woman to be honored with a Pantheon burial and will also be the first entertainer honored.

Holocaust survivor Simone Veil, one of France's most revered politicians, was buried at the Pantheon in 2018. The other women are two who fought with the French Resistance during World War II—Germaine Tillion and Genevieve de Gaulle-Anthonioz—and Nobel Prize-winning chemist Curie.

The monument also holds the remains of 72 men.

Born in St. Louis, Missouri, Baker became a megastar in the 1930s, especially in France, where she moved in 1925 as she was seeking to flee racism and segregation in the United States.

Baker quickly became famous for her "banana skirt" dance routines and wowed audiences at the Theatre des Champs-Elysees and later at

the Folies Bergere in Paris.

She became a French citizen after her marriage to industrialist Jean Lion in 1937.

During World War II, she joined the French Resistance. Amid other missions, she collected information from German officials she met at parties and carried messages hidden in her underwear to England and other countries, using her star status to justify her travels.

## Birth mother reconnects with biological son

DEAR ABBY: When I was an unmarried 18-year-old, I had a child out of wedlock. Unsure that I could provide for him, I chose to place him for adoption so he would have a chance for a better life. This year, we connected through DNA. The reunion has been great, even though I choose to remain in the background because his mother is still living.

Would it be appropriate this fall and winter to include him in my holiday festivities as long as it doesn't interfere with the time he should be spending with his family? And, after his mother passes away, what role should I play in his life? His father is deceased, and he and his adopted brother are estranged.

BIO MOM IN TEXAS

DEAR BIO MOM: Your son should have told his adoptive mother about the reunion, regardless of who initiated it. I think it would be better for everyone if she was included. A way to do that would be to thank her for taking such good care of your son and helping him to become the man he is today. I do not think secrecy is healthy. If it backfires, there will be deeply hurt feelings because of the subterfuge. At this point in your son's life it's too late for you to be his mommy. However, you CAN be a good friend, since his only family now is the woman who loved and raised him.

DEAR ABBY: I have been dating a man for almost three years. He's retired; I'm still working. He refuses to stay with me during the week because I need to go to bed early. I see him only on the weekends. Am I wrong for wanting him to stay with me during the week? I feel like we really don't have a relationship. My previous boyfriends would stay with me every night. Am I doomed with this man? By the way, he's been married four times.

WANTS MORE IN MICHIGAN

DEAR WANTS MORE: Wake up. The man you have been dating isn't going to change. He has struck out at marriage four times and may have "plans" during the week that do not include staying with a "Sleeping Beauty." If you want more companionship than what you're getting, you are going to have to seek it elsewhere.

DEAR ABBY: My daughter is getting married. Her father and I never married, but legally he's listed as her father. For the past 40 years she has used my last name. Well, her wedding invitation arrived today and her father's name is on it. Mine isn't even mentioned!

My parents and I raised her. Her dad was around but never an active father. I raised her, but he gets the glory and the privilege of walking her down the aisle? She says I'm being "a wacko." Must I accept this and let it go? I feel so hurt that

### DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN  
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



I really don't want to go to the wedding.  
LOVING, LEFT-OUT MOM

DEAR MOM: I understand your feelings. If you haven't asked your daughter why she chose to do this, you should. At the least, you deserve an explanation. Please understand that if you refuse to go to her wedding, it could create a permanent rift. There may be grandchildren and milestones you also could miss. Of course, the decision is yours to make, but since you asked me to weigh in, I'm suggesting you take the high road, attend and support your daughter on "her" day.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable—and most frequently requested—poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)



# Pastimes

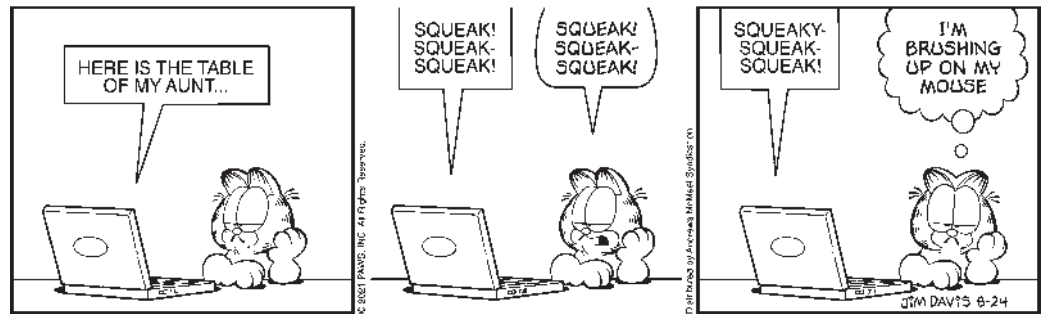
## Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



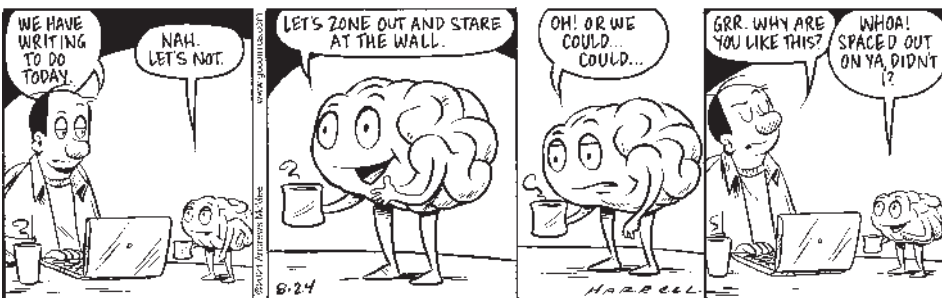
## Garfield®

By Jim Davis



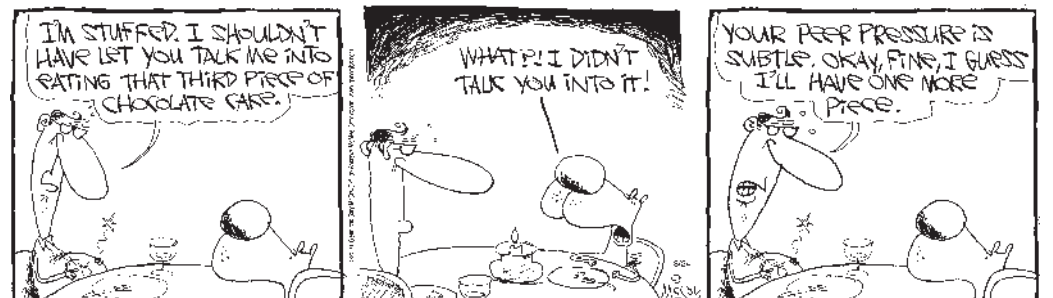
## Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



## The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



## CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**

1 Eyebrow shape

5 Mahal preceeder

8 Picnic spoiler

12 Mimic

13 Reuben bread

14 Metallica's "Nothing" — Matters"

15 Bartering event

17 Wall St. deals

18 Possesses

19 Flexible

21 West Pointer

24 Refer to

25 Like — of bricks

26 Wedding day jitters

30 Expert

31 Edward James —

32 Gl's address

33 Talking bird

35 Ship's staff

36 Nanny's nightmare

**DOWN**

1 Rm. coolers

2 Tier

3 IRS employee

4 Dash's kin

5 "— chic!"

6 Sailor's assent

7 Modern aviator

8 Aspirin's promise

9 Jessica of "Dark Angel"

10 "The heat —!"

11 Tree home

16 Wrestling surface

20 Classic Fords

21 "Li'l Abner" creator

22 Gillette razor

23 Entryway

24 Cupid's teammate

26 Glade

27 Virgil or Wyatt

28 Slender weapon

29 AAA jobs

31 Gumbo veggie

34 Missing

35 Drive-in server

37 "Still-matic" rapper

38 Seed holders

39 Lone Star State sch.

40 Petty of "Tank Girl"

41 Diner's card

44 Swindle

45 Right angle

46 Swelled head

47 Phone bug

**Solution time: 22 mins.**

Yesterday's answer 8-24

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:** Rupert Grint, 33; John Green, 44; Dave Chappelle, 48; Steve Guttenberg, 63.

**Happy Birthday:** Take the initiative to make things happen. Dream big and explore what's possible. Question shortcuts, and be prepared to implement last-minute changes that will save you time and money. Focus on building a strong foundation for what's to come. Don't back down when patience and expertise are gateways to success. Believe in your ability to finish what you start. Your numbers are 9, 16, 24, 26, 32, 38, 44.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** Self-improvement projects will pay off. Focus on fitness, emotional and physical strength, and what you can do to enjoy life. Consider your relationships with others and the benefits and liabilities you face, then make the necessary adjustments. Romance is encouraged. ★★

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** Make the changes that suit your needs. Don't sit on the sidelines waiting for someone else to make the first move. Use your intelligence, and turn your ideas into something concrete. Keep life simple, be direct and finish what you start. ★★

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** Digest what's going on around you and decide who is on your team and who opposes you. It's OK to think big, but you are better off living within your means. Discipline and hard work will bring the best results. ★★

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** Spend more time finding unique ways to up your game or make your surroundings

less stressful. Be creative, and consider changes that won't break your budget. Call on someone with experience, and you'll be offered insight into how to cut corners. ★★★★★

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** Uncertainty is a warning that you aren't satisfied with a proposition or situation. Rethink your steps, and consider the pros and cons. Be resourceful and check out other opportunities that may be a steppingstone to something new and exciting. ★★

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** Interact with experts. Gather information, formulate a strategy and take on something that will help you achieve your dreams. Speak up, share your intentions and move forward with enthusiasm and confidence. Embrace change, and exciting opportunities will follow. ★★

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** Play to win, figure out what you want and negotiate with finesse. Do what it takes to stabilize your personal life. Make your space nice and convenient. Rethink your spending habits, be generous with love and affection, not expensive gifts. ★★

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** Do something eccentric, adventuresome or creative. Become the topic of conversation and the go-to person when others need advice. Explore new possibilities, and stretch your mind to accommodate new options. Use your skills distinctively, and you'll influence future trends. ★★★★★

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** Don't lose sight of your objective. Be suspicious of anyone trying to take over. Information will be sketchy and require verifica-

## EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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tion before you pass it along. Spend more time on personal improvements and less on trying to change others. Love yourself. ★★

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** Take advantage of a moneymaking opportunity. A financial gain is apparent. Your experience will help you know when to make your move. A positive change at home or your assets is within reach. Monitor physical indulgence carefully. ★★

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** Be secretive about financial, medical or contractual dealings. Pay more attention to the way you look and present yourself. Set trends instead of adopting what others are doing. Romance is on the rise. Make a promise to someone you love. ★★★★★

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** You'll gain respect if you follow through with your plans. Find a way to manage money efficiently, and it will loosen up cash flow and encourage you to invest more in your future. Update your skills and gather information. ★★

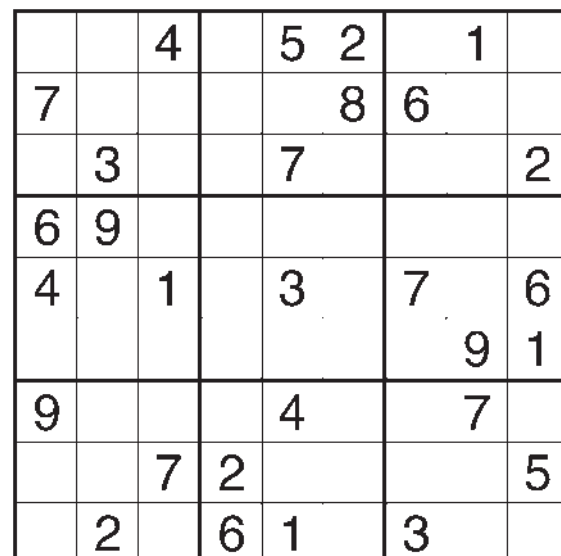
**Birthday Baby:** You are aggressive, intuitive and wise. You are resourceful and practical.

★: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ★★: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ★★★: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ★★★★★: Aim high; start new projects. ★★★★★: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

## SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



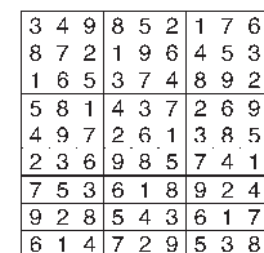
Difficulty Level ★★

8/24

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer



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## WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

**HOW TO PLAY:** All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

SARTORIAL FLAIR

Solution: 7 letters

C T D L O G E M A T C H I N G  
E O R B O L D E R M J R E C S  
Y Z U O Y O F L A S H Y A T H  
T T I T U W H T N S N P A Z O  
I N S M U S E R S S E R P X E  
T A I L C R E D W D N W O G S  
N G F P I T I R T R I E I M L  
E E G A T S S E S A L T O N N  
D L L A S E C U R D T D O D G  
I E P E R H P T C N E R O G I  
P M R D N M I A P A S T E L S  
R D A I O S E O H T S K S N E  
I A Q G T O R N N S Y C L A D  
D U G S E A M S T R E S S I T  
E S S E N E U Q I N U T I U S

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Artist, Bolder, Caped, Glad, Couturier, Craze, Customize, Design, Dots, Dress, Elegant, Express, Fashion, Flashy, Garment, Glow, Gold, Gown, Identity, Image, Linen, Matching, Material, Mode, Mood, Pastels, Patterns, Posh, Pride, Rage, Seamstress, Sewing, Shape, Shoes, Silk, Standards, Star, Style, Suit, Tailored, Taste, Technique, Togs, Trend, Trousers, Uniqueness

Yesterday's Answer: Humidity

To purchase THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volumes 47 through 62 order on line at www.WonderWordBooks.com.

## STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.



# Tigers slugger Miguel Cabrera hits 500th career home run



TORONTO (AP)—

Miguel Cabrera celebrated with his teammates on the Detroit Tigers. He took a curtain call on the road. He paid tribute to his family, his team and his native country.

It was quite a day, even for one of baseball's most accomplished sluggers.

Cabrera became the 28th major leaguer to hit 500 home runs, reaching the milestone in the sixth inning Sunday against the Toronto Blue Jays.

The 38-year-old Cabrera connected on a 1-1 pitch from left-hander Steven Matz, sending the ball over the scoreboard in right-center field. Measured at 400 feet, the homer tied it at 1.

Many of the 14,685 fans at Rogers Centre rose for a standing ovation as Cabrera rounded the bases. After celebrating with his teammates, he came out of the dugout to accept a curtain call, taking off his helmet and bowing to the crowd behind Detroit's dugout.

Cabrera, who won the Triple Crown and the first of back-to-back MVP awards in 2012, is the first Venezuelan to hit 500 homers. He is hoping to become the first hitter to reach 500 homers and 3,000 hits in the same season.

"It's something special for my country, for my family, to be able to do this," he said after Detroit's 5-3 victory. "I'm really happy."

Jeimer Candelario, who was on deck, was the first teammate to celebrate with Cabrera.

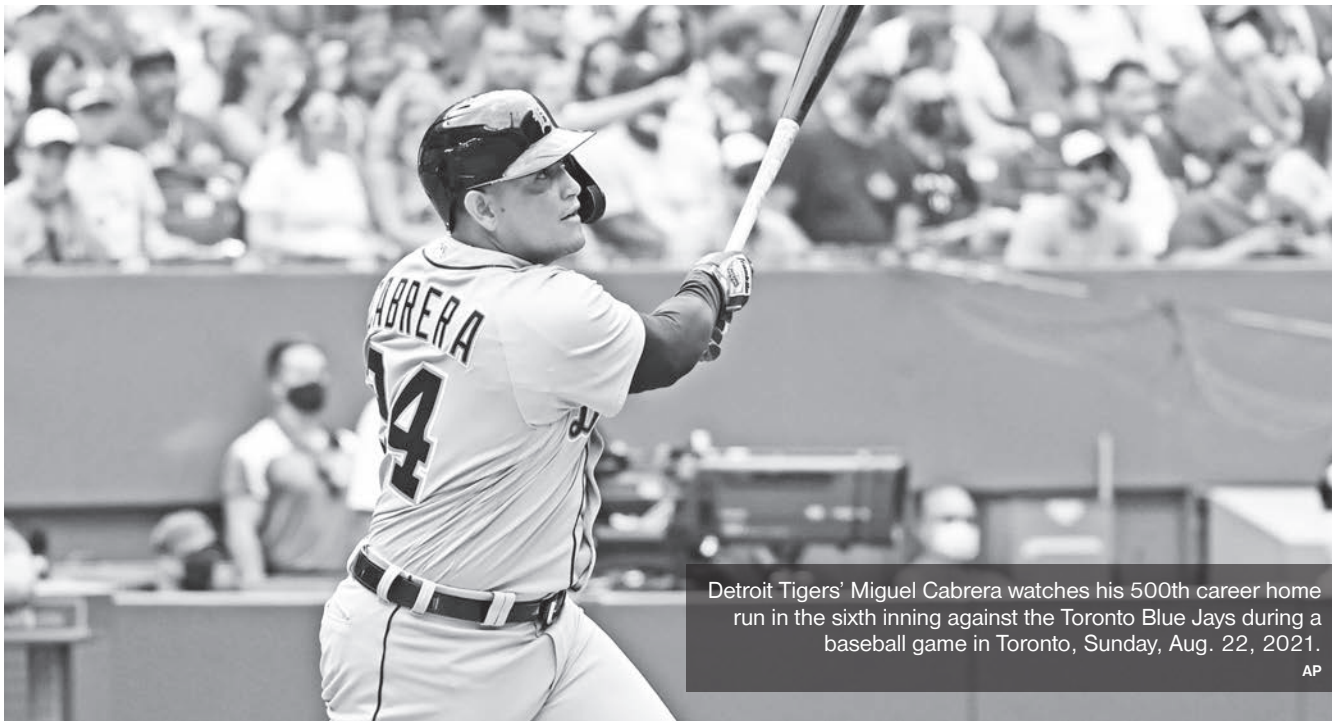
"When he hit that ball, I knew something special was about to happen and history was about to happen," Candelario said. "For me, being a part of that is a blessing. It helped us to win a ballgame, too."

Cabrera's 500th home run was hit No. 2,955 of his career, and he can reach that 3,000 milestone this year, too, if he can stay healthy and average one hit per game. Only six players have 3,000 hits and 500 homers: Hank Aaron, Willie Mays, Rafael Palmeiro, Albert Pujols, Alex Rodriguez and Eddie Murray.

His pursuit of these big numbers has become a bright spot for a Detroit team that finally seems to be emerging from a difficult rebuild, approaching a .500 record.

Cabrera is the sixth player born outside the United States to reach 500 homers. He joins Pujols, Palmeiro, Sammy Sosa, Manny Ramirez and David Ortiz, who reached the mark in 2015 and was the last to pull off the feat before Cabrera.

He is also the first player to reach the mark in a Tigers uniform.



Detroit Tigers' Miguel Cabrera watches his 500th career home run in the sixth inning against the Toronto Blue Jays during a baseball game in Toronto, Sunday, Aug. 22, 2021. AP

"So proud for him and his family, and a career accomplishment so rare you may never get to be a part of this again," manager A.J. Hinch said. "We have no idea who the next person can be to pass this big number."

## Indians 3, Angels 0

In Williamsport, Pa., Cal Quantrill pitched two-hit ball over seven innings, Amed Rosario launched an early homer and Cleveland beat Los Angeles in the Little League Classic.

As the rain held off, youngsters in town for the Little League World Series were able to enjoy the festivities. Kids rushed to the stands for ice cream and sweets, popping inflatable thunder sticks in excitement for each big league at-bat.

Angels two-way star Shohei Ohtani faceted fans on ESPN's "Kidscast" from the dugout, and Little Leaguers inched closer to the protective netting to watch his first at-bat. Ohtani ripped a single to the delight of the crowd.

Rosario belted a two-run homer off starter Jose Suarez (5-7) in the first inning. Quantrill (4-2) struck out nine and walked two. Emmanuel Clase got three outs for his 18th save.

## Braves 3, Orioles 1

In Baltimore, Jorge Soler homered, Touki Toussaint pitched effectively into the sixth inning, and the Braves extended the Orioles' losing streak to 18 games.

Baltimore's skid is the longest in the major leagues since Kansas City dropped 19 in a row in 2005. This was only the third time during this streak that the Orioles lost by two runs or fewer.

Adam Duvall added a two-run double for NL East-leading Atlanta, which has won nine in a row and 16 of its last 18. The Braves also have won a franchise-record 13 consecutive road games.

Toussaint (3-2) allowed a

run and five hits in 5 1/3 innings. Will Smith worked the ninth for his 28th save.

Baltimore's John Means (5-6) yielded three runs and four hits in six-plus innings.

## Rays 9, White Sox 0

In St. Petersburg, Fla., Francisco Mejia hit a three-run double for Tampa Bay, and five Rays pitchers combined on a seven-hitter.

Austin Meadows had three RBIs for Tampa Bay, which took the final two of the three-game series between AL division leaders.

Four Tampa Bay relievers followed Chris Archer, who departed with left hip tightness after two innings. It was Archer's first start since leaving a game April 10 against the Yankees with right forearm tightness.

Shawn Armstrong (1-0) got the win, and Josh Fleming pitched three innings for his first major league save.

Chicago's Reynaldo Lopez (2-1) gave up three runs in four innings.

The Rays announced before the game that slugger Nelson Cruz had been placed on the COVID-19 injured list.

White Sox shortstop Tim Anderson sat out his second consecutive game with leg fatigue and soreness.

## Mets 7, Dodgers 2

In Los Angeles, J.D. Davis homered and drove in four runs, and the Mets snapped the Dodgers' nine-game win streak.

New York avoided a four-game series sweep and a seven-game season sweep at the Dodgers' hands with just its second win in 10 games overall. Marcus Stroman (9-12) pitched six innings of four-hit ball, and Javier Baez hit an RBI double in the first inning of his first game back from injury.

Los Angeles dropped 2 1/2 games behind San Francisco atop the NL West and overall MLB standings. Cody Bell-

inger had a two-run single, and David Price (4-2) allowed three runs in four innings.

## Giants 2, Athletics 1

In Oakland, Calif., pinch-hitter Donovan Solano connected for a two-run homer on the first pitch he saw from A.J. Puk with two outs in the eighth inning, and the Giants rallied past the Athletics for a second straight day.

Puk (0-1) couldn't hold the lead after relieving Frankie Montas, who struck out nine over seven scoreless innings in a brilliant duel with Logan Webb. Solano went deep moments after Austin Slater drew a pinch-hit walk.

Dominic Leone (3-2) struck out two in a perfect seventh. Starling Marte's two-out double in the eighth against Tyler Rogers put the tying run on third but Matt Olson grounded out. Jake McGee pitched the ninth for his 28th save after allowing Josh Harrison's one-out double.

## Reds 3, Marlins 1

In Cincinnati, Tyler Naquin hit two solo homers and Vladimir Gutierrez pitched seven effective innings, helping the Reds complete the four-game series sweep.

Naquin's leadoff shot extended his hitting streak to 12 games. He added his 18th homer in the eighth, making it 3-1 when he drove an 0-2 fast-ball from Anthony Bass into the seats in right-center.

Mike Moustakas also connected for Cincinnati, which won for the sixth time in eight games. It also moved a game ahead of San Diego for the second NL wild card.

Miami wasted a sharp performance by Sandy Alcantara (7-11) in its seventh straight loss. Alcantara struck out a career-high 11 while working seven innings of two-run ball.

Gutierrez (9-4) allowed three hits. Michael Lorenzen got three outs for his third save.

## Phillies 7, Padres 4

In San Diego, Rhys Hoskins homered twice for Philadelphia in his return from the injured list, and Kyle Gibson pitched eight fantastic innings.

Odubel Herrera went 4 for 5 with a home run and three RBIs to help the second-place Phillies remain five games behind Atlanta in the NL East.

San Diego has lost nine of 11. It dropped a game behind Cincinnati in the race for the second NL wild card.

Hoskins, placed on the injured list Aug. 10 with a left groin strain, hit a solo shot to straightaway center off Ryan Weathers (4-6) in the fourth and another long drive to left in the fifth against Miguel Diaz.

Gibson (9-5) gave up one run and six hits.

## Mariners 6, Astros 3, 11 innings

In Houston, Ty France homered in the ninth inning and singled in J.P. Crawford in the 11th, leading Seattle to the win.

Crawford started the 11th on second base and moved to third on a wild pitch by Ryne Stanek (1-3) with no outs. Mitch Haniger walked before France singled on a grounder to right field.

Kyle Seager then connected for his 29th homer, lifting the Mariners to a 6-2 lead.

France's solo shot in the ninth tied it at 2. Paul Sewald (8-3) picked up the win, and Yohan Ramirez got two outs for his first save.

Yordan Alvarez homered for AL West-leading Houston, which had won three in a row.

## Brewers 7, Nationals 3

In Milwaukee, Kolten Wong homered and drove in three runs, powering Milwaukee to the victory.

Lorenzo Cain also connected as Milwaukee took the rubber game of the weekend series. The NL Central leaders have won 10 of 13 overall.

Hunter Strickland (2-1) got two outs for the win, and Josh Hader recorded the last out for his 26th save.

Wong drove Sean Nolin's second pitch deep to right for his 10th homer. It was his fifth leadoff shot this season and No. 7 for his career.

Carter Kieboom homered for Washington in the ninth. Nolin (0-2) was charged with three runs and six hits in four innings.

## Cardinals 3, Pirates 0

In St. Louis, Adam Wainwright pitched eight innings of two-hit ball and Paul Goldschmidt homered, leading St. Louis to the victory.

The Cardinals snapped a two-game skid and kept the Pirates from earning their first series sweep of the season. They remain the only team in the majors without one.

The 39-year-old Wainwright (12-7) threw 106 pitches and retired his final 11 hitters. He hasn't permitted a run in his past 19 innings against the Pirates and has won his last seven decisions against them.

Goldschmidt hit his 19th homer in the fifth to make it 2-0. Alex Reyes got his 28th save in 30 chances.

Pittsburgh's Steven Brault (0-2) permitted one run and five hits in four innings.

## Royals 9, Cubs 1

In Chicago, Andrew Benintendi drove in three runs, and Kansas City finished a three-game series sweep.

It was Chicago's franchise-record 13th consecutive loss at Wrigley Field.

Benintendi and Carlos Santana each had three hits in Kansas City's sixth win in seven games. Hunter Dozier doubled and drove in two runs.

Royals right-hander Carlos Hernandez (4-1) struck out a career-high eight in seven innings, also a career best. He allowed one run and four hits.

Frank Schwindel had two hits for the Cubs, who have dropped 21 of 25. Alec Mills (5-6) got the loss.

## Diamondbacks 8, Rockies 4

In Denver, Daulton Varsho hit a three-run homer, and the Diamondbacks beat the Rockies for a rare win at Coors Field.

Taylor Widener (2-1) tossed five innings of one-hit ball to help Arizona end a seven-game losing streak in Denver. Varsho finished with three hits and four RBIs.

Colorado had won five straight and nine in a row at home.

Colorado's Jon Gray (7-10) has lost four straight starts, all in August. He allowed five runs and six hits in 5 1/3 innings.



# Titans coach Mike Vrabel tests positive for COVID-19

**NASHVILLE, Tenn.** (AP)—Tennessee Titans coach Mike Vrabel said Sunday he has tested positive for COVID-19 and has quarantined pending further testing.

Vrabel told reporters he woke up with a sore throat and an earache. He went to the team headquarters Sunday morning to be tested, and the result came back positive. Another rapid test also turned up positive, so Vrabel was given a PCR test, which he expects will return Monday as positive.

"This isn't the first time that we've gone through this, so whatever the protocols are we'll follow them exactly how they're laid out," said Vrabel, who disclosed this spring that he was vaccinated.

The Titans beat the Tampa Bay Buccaneers 34-3 in a preseason game Saturday night. They traveled to Florida on Tuesday and practiced jointly with the Buccaneers on Wednesday and Thursday.

Vrabel originally was scheduled to meet with reporters in person, but the availability was pushed back an hour and conducted remotely by Zoom. Vrabel wouldn't say if others also were in quarantine. He said the Titans would have updates on Monday.

"As of now, I don't think that anybody that has been tested this morning has tested positive," Vrabel said.

Under NFL protocols, Vrabel must have two negative test results within 48 hours to go back to work inside the Titans'



Tennessee Titans head coach Mike Vrabel reacts during the first half of an NFL preseason football game against the Tampa Bay Buccaneers Saturday, Aug. 21, 2021, in Tampa, Fla.

AP



Atlanta Falcons quarterback AJ McCarron (5) is assisted off the field after he was injured on a play, during the first half of a preseason NFL football game against the Miami Dolphins, Saturday, Aug. 21, 2021, in Miami Gardens, Fla.

AP

## McCarron (knee) out for season, Falcons in market for QB

**FLOWERY BRANCH, Ga.** (AP)—Falcons quarterback AJ McCarron is done for the season after sustaining a knee injury in a preseason loss to the Miami Dolphins, putting Atlanta in the market for a quarterback to back up Matt Ryan.

The team announced Sunday that an MRI showed a season-ending ACL injury to McCarron's right knee.

McCarron was apparently injured while fighting for extra yards on a scramble early in the second quarter of a 37-17 setback at Miami on Saturday night. He stayed in the game for one more play, a handoff, before hobbling toward the sideline.

"I really feel for AJ McCarron," Falcons coach Arthur Smith said. "It's tough when you know what these guys put into it."

The 30-year-old McCarron was signed by the Falcons to fill the void left by the retirement of longtime backup Matt Schaub.

Undrafted rookie Felipe Franks is the only other healthy quarterback on the roster behind Ryan, so the Falcons will surely be look-

ing to sign another veteran quarterback before their final preseason game.

Best known for leading Alabama to back-to-back national championships, McCarron played sparingly his first seven seasons in the NFL. He made three starts for the Cincinnati Bengals and one with the Houston Texans, while also spending one year with the Raiders.

McCarron played poorly in the Falcons' first preseason game, completing just 5 of 12 passes for 36 yards with an interception in a 23-3 loss to Tennessee. He completed 3 of 6 passes for 36 yards against the Dolphins before the injury.

Among the quarterbacks who might be of interest of the Falcons: Josh Rosen, Robert Griffin III, Blake Bortles and Josh McCown.

Rosen, the No. 10 overall pick by Arizona in 2018, was recently cut by the 49ers.

There's also a chance the Falcons might try to persuade Schaub to come back for another season. The quarterback, who turned 40 in June, attended a recent practice.

headquarters or remain in quarantine for 10 days. That could keep him away until Sept. 1. The Titans open the season on Sept. 12, hosting Arizona.

Vrabel said he would figure out who would run the team while he's limited to attending meetings remotely, though he is comfortable with special teams coordinator Craig Aukerman filling the role. Inside linebackers coach Jim Haslett and senior defensive assistant Jim Schwartz both are former head coaches.

"So there's a lot of guys that we could lean on in that capacity," Vrabel said.

The Titans had the first COVID-19 outbreak during

the NFL season last year. The NFL postponed two Tennessee games and later fined the team \$350,000.

Vrabel made clear he didn't want to take away from what he saw in the Titans' win over Tampa Bay even with so many starters watching from the sideline.

"Watching the tape after the game just really proud of a lot of those guys that competed," Vrabel said. "And that's what I want this to be about. And I'm sorry that it's not."

The Titans (2-0) have not allowed a touchdown through two preseason games, outscoring their opponents 57-6. They host Chi-

cago (1-1) on Saturday night.

Rookies Caleb Farley and Elijah Molden made their NFL debuts against the Bucs with Molden, a third-round draft pick, starting as a third cornerback. Farley came off the bench and played 16 snaps as he recovers from back surgery in March.

Molden not only led the Titans in tackles, he had a sack and two tackles for loss while also forcing a fumble.

"That was really cool to see," Vrabel said. "The blitz was amazing. He kind of popped underneath two guys and we said it should have been a caused fumble. But we're not nitpicking."

Sam Ficken moved closer to winning the job at kicker, taking advantage of Tucker McCann missing the past week after hurting his right foot in the preseason opener. Ficken made field goals from 48 and 58 yards and had five touchbacks on kickoffs.

Vrabel said Ficken hasn't done anything to hurt himself.

"I think his leg has gotten even stronger since he's got here," Vrabel said. "And I asked (assistant coach) James (Wilhoit), 'Is it stronger or is he just hitting it with more confidence?' And James thinks that he's just swinging with more confidence because it clearly looks like a stronger leg to me."

## Cards' Fitzgerald: 'Don't have the urge to play' football

**TEMPE, Ariz.** (AP)—Arizona Cardinals 11-time Pro Bowl receiver Larry Fitzgerald says he currently doesn't have the desire to play an 18th NFL season, though he left the possibility open that he might resume his career.

In an interview on SiriusXM Radio with Jim Gray on Mad Dog Sports Radio—set to air Friday afternoon—Fitzgerald said he's currently focused on being a radio broadcaster.

"To be honest with you I just don't have the urge to play right now," Fitzgerald said in the interview. "I don't know how I'll feel in September, October, November moving forward but I just, today, I just don't have that urge. And I think I have to be respectful of that. Football is not one of those games you want to walk out there and play and not be fully engaged and ready to prepare and do the things necessary that you need to do."

The 37-year-old has put together 17 of the most consistent and productive seasons for



In this Dec. 13, 2020, file photo, Arizona Cardinals' Larry Fitzgerald warms up before an NFL football game against the New York Giants in East Rutherford, N.J.

AP

a wide receiver in NFL history.

He hasn't been at the Cardinals' preseason camp in Glendale, Arizona, over the past month. Coach Kliff Kingsbury and teammates have consistently said they're not sure of Fitzgerald's football plans. The Cardinals signed veteran receiver A.J. Green during the offseason.

Known by many Cardinals fans as "Larry Legend," he has played his entire career in the

desert. He has 1,432 catches for 17,492 yards. Those numbers both rank second in NFL history behind Pro Football Hall of Famer Jerry Rice.

He's proven incredibly durable, even in his latest seasons. He played in every regular-season game from 2015 to 2019 and appeared in 13 games during 2020, catching 54 passes for 409 yards and a touchdown.

Fitzgerald was a 2008 All-Pro and has made 11 Pro Bowl

teams in a career that started in 2004. He was the third overall pick in that year's draft out of Pittsburgh and almost immediately became one of the game's top receivers.

Fitzgerald has a fairly low-key personality for a receiver—a position notorious for its prima donnas. He usually does his job with a smile and rarely complains, even during some tough years when the Cardinals cycled through multiple journeyman quarterbacks.

It's one of many reasons Fitzgerald is widely beloved in Arizona and fans erupt every time he catches a pass. Over two decades, he's established deep connections in the community and became a part owner of the NBA's Phoenix Suns last year.

Over the past two years, he relished working with young quarterback Kyler Murray, whom the Cardinals drafted No. 1 overall in 2019. He also has a good rapport with Kingsbury, who is only a few years older than the receiver.



**TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES**
**MLB STANDINGS**
**AMERICAN LEAGUE**
**East Division**

	W	L	Pct	GB
Tampa Bay	77	48	.616	
New York	72	52	.581	4½
Boston	70	55	.560	7
Toronto	64	58	.525	11½
Baltimore	38	85	.309	38

**Central Division**

Chicago	72	53	.576	
Cleveland	61	61	.500	9½
Detroit	60	66	.476	12½
Kansas City	55	68	.447	16
Minnesota	54	70	.435	17½

**West Division**

Houston	73	51	.589	
Oakland	70	55	.560	3½
Seattle	67	58	.536	6½
Los Angeles	62	64	.492	12
Texas	43	80	.350	29½

**NATIONAL LEAGUE**
**East Division**

Atlanta	68	56	.548	
Philadelphia	63	61	.508	5
New York	61	63	.492	7
Washington	53	70	.431	14½
Miami	51	74	.408	17½

**Central Division**

Milwaukee	76	49	.608	
Cincinnati	69	57	.548	7½
St. Louis	63	60	.512	12
Chicago	54	72	.429	22½
Pittsburgh	44	80	.355	31½

**West Division**

San Francisco	80	44	.645	
Los Angeles	78	47	.624	2½
San Diego	68	58	.540	13
Colorado	57	67	.460	23
Arizona	42	83	.336	38½

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**PACIFIC**

From Page 20

**First Game**

**Sixers 59** — Andrew 16, Brennan 11, Itaas 10, De Guzman 6, Leung 6, Aranda 5, Fidelino 5.

**Sacho 1 22** — Aguon 6, D. Faisao 4, Malwelbug 4, Iguel 2, Q. Faisao 2, Sharry 2.

**Scoring by halves:** 20-14, 59-22.

**Second Game**

**Blue Haus 52** — Byna 11, Barbo 10, Guiab 9, Peredo 9, Tatlonghari 6, Esdrelon 4, Berline 2.

**Rollers 47** — Deleon Guerrero 20, Richardson 14, Augenzaugh 6, Roquepo 2, Palmes 2, Sumar 2.

**Scoring by halves:** 31-17, 52-47.

**Third Game**

**Marianas Dental 46** — Ferrari 15, Apasan 10, Natividad 8, Torres 7, Ferrer 4, Dannel 2, Ariar 2.

**Jacob's Bakeshop & Barbecue 44** — Lilues 16, Ong 10, Gaviola 7, Kintz 6, Duenas 4, Moises 1.

**Scoring by halves:** 17-17, 46-44.

**Fourth Game**

**The Game 51** — Dayao 11, Sagum 11, Mintac 10, Deleon Guerrero 7, Joe 7, Blake 3, Teregeyo 2.

**Bola Bois 38** — Jandoc 8, Fundador 7, Saplan 4, Agustin 4, Mangali 4, R. Hipolito 3, Reyes 2, E. Hipolito 2, Galang 2.

**Scoring by halves:** 23-17, 51-38.

**Fifth Game**

**Pacific Auto 61** — K. Castro 16, Estevez 16, Ju. Camacho 11, Ja. Camacho 5, G. Castro 4, Lizama 4, Rangamar 3, Teregeyo 2, Pangelinan 2.

**K2 Ballers 47** — Santos 9, Lizama 9, Mendiola 9, Faisao 7, Deleon Guerrero 4, Limes 2, Malwelbul 2, Hocog 2, Brandon 2.

**Scoring by halves:** 27-17, 61-46.

# Pelicans retain restricted free agent swing player Josh Hart



**NEW ORLEANS** (AP)—The New Orleans Pelicans have signed restricted free agent Josh Hart to a three-year extension worth up to \$38 million with \$12 million guaranteed.

The club announced the signing on Thursday without providing terms, but a person familiar with the situation provided the length and value of the contract to The Associated Press. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because terms have not been announced.

New Orleans acquired Hart from the Lakers as part of a three-team trade in 2019 that sent star forward Anthony Davis to Los Angeles and sent Brandon Ingram, Lonzo Ball and multiple draft picks to the Pelicans.

Ball, who also was a restricted free agent this offseason, was dealt to Chicago in an Aug. 2 sign-and-trade that sent Garrett Temple and Tomas Satoransky to New Orleans.

The 6-foot-5, 215-pound Hart has played primarily shooting guard and small forward.


**NBA BRIEFS**
**Source: Hornets' Rozier agrees to 4-year, \$97M extension**

**CHARLOTTE, N.C.** (AP)—The Charlotte Hornets have agreed to a four-year, \$97 million contract extension with guard Terry Rozier, according to a person familiar with the situation.

The person spoke to The Associated Press on Thursday on condition of anonymity because the team has not announced the extension.

Rozier, a six-year NBA veteran, averaged a career-high 20.4 points and 4.2 assists last season in his second season with the Hornets. Rozier came to Charlotte in a sign-and-trade deal in 2020 that included Kemba Walker going to the Boston Celtics.

Rozier averaged 18 points and 4.1 assists and shot a career-high 40.7% from 3-point range in his first season with the Hornets.

Rozier excelled last season despite the addition of rookie point guard LaMelo Ball, the NBA Rookie of the Year, sliding to the shooting guard spot on a more full-time basis and shooting 38.9% from 3-point range while making a career-

Last season, he averaged 9.2 points, eight rebounds and 2.3 assists in 47 games before a hand injury sidelined him for the final 25 games on the schedule. Hart routinely received playing time late in close games, regularly contributing timely

3-pointers, fast-break layups and rebounds.

Hart was the 30th overall pick in the 2017 draft out of Villanova. He has played in 242 games with 65 starts in four pro seasons, averaging 8.7 points, 5.4 rebounds and 1.6 assists in 26 minutes.

In this March 1, 2021, file photo, New Orleans Pelicans guard Josh Hart (3) celebrates his slam dunk with guard Lonzo Ball (2) in the final seconds of the second half of an NBA basketball game against the Utah Jazz in New Orleans.

AP

high 222 shots from beyond the arc.

Rozier's extension comes on the heels of the Hornets' decision to trade former starting guard Devonte Graham to the New Orleans Pelicans for a protected 2022 first-round draft pick.

**Pistons re-sign guard Hamidou Diallo**

**DETROIT** (AP)—The Detroit Pistons re-signed guard Hamidou Diallo on Thursday.

Terms of the agreement were not disclosed.

The 6-foot-5 Diallo, the 2019 NBA Slam Dunk champion as a rookie, was acquired from Oklahoma City in March for Svi Mykhailiuk and future draft consideration.

In 20 games with the Pistons, Diallo averaged 11.2 points, 5.4 rebounds and 23.3 minutes. Overall, he had career-high averages of 11.6 points and 5.2 rebounds in 52 games.

The former Kentucky player has averaged 7.5 points and 3.6 rebounds in 149 career NBA games with Oklahoma City and Detroit.

# PGA Tour hopes for best after rain soaks Liberty National



**JERSEY CITY, N.J.** (AP)—Liberty National avoided the brunt of the wind from Hurricane Henri, but not the rain that forced the final round of The Northern Trust to finish on Monday.

That was the hope, anyway.

If the weather or the conditions don't cooperate, the tournament could go to Tuesday.

In a memo sent to players Sunday night, PGA Tour com-

missioner Jay Monahan said he is amending the bad weather guidelines to allow for a Tuesday finish regardless of how much golf is played Monday.

Monahan cited the importance and the sequential nature of the FedEx Cup playoffs in making an exception to the guidelines.

The tour said spectators would not be allowed for the final round because of some 6 inches of rain—with the possibility of more overnight—

that has left walking routes impassable.

Jon Rahm and Cameron Smith finished the third round Saturday tied for the lead at 16-under 197, one shot ahead of Erik van Rooyen.

The PGA Tour decided before the third round even began that Henri posed too much danger for players, spectators and volunteers to be at Liberty National on Sunday. Officials came to the course along the Hudson River and found the course to be in

reasonable shape.

"Really good for 5 inches of rain," said John Mutch, the PGA Tour rules official overseeing the event. "They were working on the bunkers when I was there. There's not a whole lot of standing water. I was pleased. I've seen a lot worse."

A steady rain kept falling into early Sunday afternoon. The tour released tee times for 7:30 a.m. with threesomes starting on both sides.

The course was built on land-

fill and drains relatively well.

It was no small task to prepare for Henri, which was downgraded to a tropical storm before it made landfall Sunday in Rhode Island.

Hours after Smith had set the course record with a 60 he missed a 12-foot putt for a 59—and Rahm finished with a par for a 67 to share the lead, workers at Liberty National worked well into Saturday night securing anything that might blow away.

**TAGA**

From Page 20

Burrell tackled the 50m swim in the waters off Poupau Beach and the 1-loop bike and the 1-loop run around the complex in 6:34 to win the girls division. Leilani Ruszala and Lucy Thomsen finished second and third with times of

6:57 and 7:05, respectively.

Walsh, meanwhile, topped the boys category after negotiating the course in 7:36. He was followed by Beau Bauer (7:57) and Vince Seman Jr. (8:28).

In the girls 9-12, Vivian Chung beat Catalina Frink, 14:54-19:19, to take the tiara. Seman, for his part, ruled the

boys 9-12 after submitting a time of 15:17 to narrowly beat out Keoni Ruszala, who came in at 15:53. Third place went to Marco Paulo Castro at 23:06.

Instead of the cut-throat competition usually seen in triathlons, the atmosphere during Saturday's Taga Kids was more of a festive mood

with parents and family members cheering on their children with some of even "escorting" them throughout the bike and run portions of the course.

Results of the mixed relay will be published in tomorrow's issue of *Saipan Tribune*.

TRAC president Manny Sitchon earlier said that he's

glad that the Taga Kids was again back in their sports calendar after it was postponed in 2019 due to logistical reasons and was cancelled altogether in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Taga Kids Triathlon was sponsored by Bridge Capital LLC and Brabu Pharmacy & Wellness Center.

**RUN**

From Page 20

and secretary/treasurer Ron Snyder. In addition, Robin Sapong and Tania Tan will serve on the club's board of directors.

"We made it official because I along with the others just wanted help do our part to create a healthier CNMI through the sport of running (athletics). I initially started the club as a virtual club to encourage people to walk, jog, and run. Through my friendships with Dr. Ron Snyder and Oceania Athletics Association president Robin Sapong, we

saw the opportunity to create something so much more. Something permanent."

He said everyone should expect big things from Run Saipan now that it's formally organized.

"We have a lot of great things planned for our club," said Dela Cruz. "Starting in the new year, we will have a full membership package available for runners and walkers of all ages and will tie them all together through a special Run Saipan Cup."

Snyder said Run Saipan will also have a number of programs to specifically target the youth and grass-roots development.

"We also look forward to building our youth athletics program in support of the World Athletics Initiative of 'Giving every child in the world access to our sport.' We will be starting a partnership with the Atlanta Track and Field Club called Kilometer Kids that seeks to promote running through play-based activities," he said.

Run Saipan becoming incorporated will also benefit the CNMI's off-island athletes.

"One of our other initiatives will be to further develop support for off-island athletes like our youngest board member, Tania Tan, who is a cross

country and track athlete at Fordham University," said Sapong, who is also general secretary of Northern Marianas Athletics and president of OAA. "By continuing to work with our federation's athletes, wherever they are in the world, we will ensure the rapid development of our support and its continued growth in regional events."

Run Saipan seeks to promote a healthy lifestyle in the CNMI by supporting community projects such as regular 5K races, running and nutrition workshops, sending athletic ambassadors to the schools, and working with

Northern Marianas Athletics to increase the opportunities for cardiovascular health available to all residents in the commonwealth, regardless of running ability or experience.

Dela Cruz also assured "members" of Run Saipan that preceded the non-profit club that the virtual club will always be there.

"Run Saipan is a community of runners. It will always be for everyone. For those that wish to pledge to become official members committed to the organization will simply just have to fill out the application and pay the yearly membership fee like the rest of us," he said.





**Tigers slugger Miguel Cabrera hits 500th career home run** **PAGE 17**

# Saipan Tribune Sports



**Pelicans retain restricted free agent swing player Josh Hart** **PAGE 19**

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

## Pacific Auto rolls past K2 Ballers

By MARK RABAGO  
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Pacific Auto relied on its young guns to speed past K2 Ballers, 61-46, as the NMI Rollers Basketball Association's Inaugural NMI Rollers Men's Basketball Tournament continued with five matches last Saturday at the Koblerville Gymnasium.

Led by the Mutt-and-Jeff combination of center Juan Camacho and point guard Chris Estevez, Pacific Auto took the initiative early in the tourney's last game that day and they led by double digits, 27-17, after the first 20 minutes of play.

Kenta Castro then joined the party in the second half, as the cat-quick swingman anchored Pacific Auto's fast-break attack enabling the team to win its debut running away, while exacting K2 Ballers its first loss in two games.

Estevez and Castro paced Pacific Auto in the win with 16 points each, while Camacho was a tower of power down low with 11 points and 7 rebounds.

K2 Ballers was led by the 9 points apiece of Jon San-

tos, Ryan Mendiola, and Dion Lizama.

In the first game, the San Antonio Sixers ran circles against an overmatched Sacho 1 squad to win, 59-22.

The Sixers, whose core is made up of the CNMI national training pool, didn't blow Sacho 1 out of the water immediately as they led by only 6 points, 20-14, after the first half with Don Brennan firing 9 markers.

But the gloves went off in the second half, as center Josh Andrew and swingman Christian Itaas found their groove and scored 20 points between them, leading San Antonio to the easy win.

Andrew paced the Sixers in the triumph with 16 points and 17 rebounds, while Brennan and Itaas chipped in 11 and 10 points, respectively.



Jun Aguon led Sacho 1 with his 6 markers.

Blue Haus withstood a second-half rally by Rollers to escape with a 52-47 win in the second game. Ryan Byna spearheaded a balanced scoring attack by Blue Haus with 11 points, while forward Darwin Barbo added 10. Shane Deleon Guerrero and Matt Richardson led Rollers in the losing cause with 20 and 14 points, respectively.

Marianas Dental, meanwhile, defeated Jacob's Bake-shop & Barbecue by the skin of its teeth in the third game, 46-44. It was a nip-and-tuck game from the get-go with both teams entering halftime at a 17-all tie. The 15 points of Je Ferrari led Marianas Dental.

In the penultimate game of the evening, The Game blew out Bola Bois, 51-38. Kerwin Dayao and Jeff Sagum were the top scorers for the winners with 11 points apiece, while Jetzen Jandoc tossed in 8 markers to pace Bola Bois.

**See PACIFIC on Page 19**

Pacific Auto center Juan Camacho goes up strong for a layup against K2 Ballers in their game in the Inaugural NMI Rollers Men's Basketball Tournament last Saturday at the Koblerville Gymnasium.

MARK RABAGO

## Taga Kids returns with aplomb

By MARK RABAGO  
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

After a two-year hiatus, Taga Kids triumphantly returned last Saturday with close to 40 participants taking part in the

event organized by the Triathlon Association of the CNMI at the Paupau Beach complex.

Instead of accompanying the Tagaman, the triathlon for children this

time came after the tryouts for the CNMI National Triathlon Team for next year's 2022 Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games.

Two divisions were contest-

ed last Saturday with Scarlett Burrell and Gabriel Walsh topping the 5-8 years old division and Vivian Chung and Philip James Seman winning the 9-12 age group.

**See TAGA on Page 19**



From left, Run Saipan secretary/treasurer Ron Snyder, vice president Jiayi Kong, president Edward Dela Cruz Jr., and board members Tania Tan and Robin Sapong. **CONTRIBUTED PHOTO**

### Run Saipan incorporated into non-profit

By MARK RABAGO  
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR



A club known for its "underground" 5K fun runs since last Spring has made itself official after Run Saipan was incorporated as a non-profit running club recently.

Last night, they held their

first board meeting and are preparing to welcome members.

Edward J. Dela Cruz Jr. has been installed as president of Run Saipan during the club's first meeting last Aug. 18 in the Saipan International School conference room. Also installed were vice president Jiayi Kong

**See RUN on Page 19**



Burrell



Walsh



Chung



Seman